



THE ORACLE

"Two Campuses, One Mission"

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Is Graduation an Institutional Function?

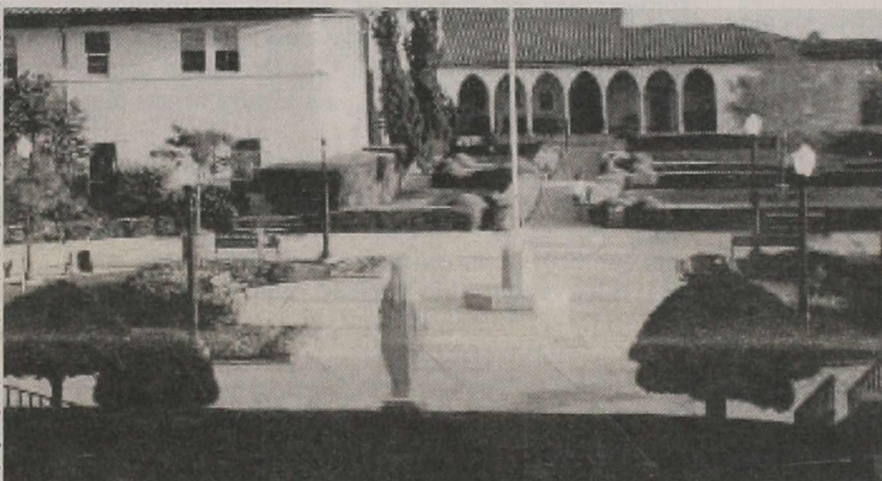
By Cynthia Chavez
Reporter

On Thursday November 1st, the Mount St. Mary's College lecture hall became the site of the senior class informative meeting that answered many of the questions posed by infuriated seniors in regards to Graduation 2002. Most questions asked by a few of the attendees were answered except one very important question that arose during the meeting, why was graduation referred to as an institutional function and not senior class activity? Seniors were told that commencement was an institutional function that the college has responsibility for and which the seniors are being allowed to attend. This was a statement by a graduation committee representative when asked why seniors were left out in helping to plan their own graduation. In other words, the senior class was left out because it was not considered a senior activity most major decisions were already decided at the time of the November 1st meeting.

The planning of the graduation did not include ideas from its own graduating class which is why many seniors are displeased. Despite the disappointment of the senior class, concerns have not been ignored by the administration. Although students are encouraged to share their thoughts it does not change the fact that the site of the 2002 graduation has already been determined despite the obvious disappointment of some seniors. Graduation 2002 will, in fact, take place at the Circle instead of the Shrine Auditorium where it has previously

taken place. For those who feel that they have been left in the dark concerning graduation or simply want to learn a few of the details concerning the event, an outline of the items discussed was presented by the graduation committee:

- * Reasons for the change of location: to preserve the tradition of graduation at the Mount; to make it personal for graduates; to utilize our beautiful landscape.
- * Time & location: Saturday, May 11, 2002; Mass at 1:30 p.m. at Carondelet Chapel (tentative); commencement ceremony at 4:30 p.m. at the circle.



Photographer Isabel Estrada
The circle: The location for the '02 graduation

- * Traditional hooding of Baccalaureate students will be part of the graduation ceremony.
- * Graduates will be hooded by department chairs (1st level of stairs) then proceed to receive diploma (2nd level of stairs).

- * Graduate seating will be located in front of Mary Chapel, faculty will be seated on second level by Hannon Parlor, and the Board of Trustees and the choir will be situated at the top level of the stairs.
- * No definite answer yet if tickets will be required. Ticket distribution will be determined once the Mount property (the circle) has been assessed in order to determine guest capacity.
- * There will be no assigned seating and will be first come, first serve basis and no one will be allowed to save seats. Guests should plan arrival time accordingly. A section for the handicapped and elderly will be available with an additional seat for a person to

accompany those who need to be accommodated; students may request a handicap pass as needed (details given later).

* Parking will be available but the location has yet to be determined. Those with special parking passes will park in designated areas.

* Shuttles will be available; the schedule of service has yet to be determined.

* Guests arriving by shuttle will be dropped off in front of Coe Library until graduation starts, those arriving late will be dropped off outside the second floor of the Humanities building.

Shuttles are not wheelchair accessible; however, people in wheelchairs will be permitted to be dropped off in front of Coe Library.

* For those pondering the bee question; an active bee abatement program will be enforced at the circle throughout the month of May.

Analyzing Anthrax: An Ancient Bacterial Disease

By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

A great deal of paranoia has been surrounding the recent anthrax scares that have surfaced in Florida and New Jersey. Gas mask sales have skyrocketed throughout the country to such an extent that military surplus stores are completely out of stock, and remaining gas masks are selling for highly inflated prices due to the increase in demand. Sales of Cipro (the trade name for ciprofloxacin), the only drug known to effectively prevent the progression of inhaled anthrax, have increased dramatically. Postal workers around the country have been sighted delivering mail donned in dust masks, rubber gloves, and facial coverings. Police departments nationwide are receiving calls from concerned citizens who fear their mail may have come into contact with white, powdery substances. Amid the hustle and bustle of typical American style, people everywhere are buying reserves of bottled water, canned goods, flashlights and batteries.

In truth, very little can be done to protect against anthrax, as with any other form of terrorist action. Experts agree that the threat of anthrax has not necessarily increased, only the level of fear about them. A gas

mask will only be of help if you plan to wear it all the time. Once a biological agent such as anthrax has been inhaled, it's already too late for a gas mask to help unless you're seeking to prevent any additional exposure. Being armed with the facts about anthrax may prevent the U.S. from being diagnosed even further with such things as panic attacks or generalized anxiety disorder.

Anthrax is an ancient bacterial disease that is caught from infected grass-eating animals such as cattle or sheep, or contaminated animal products. Once commonly known as the "wool sorter's disease", a case of inhaled anthrax had not been seen in the United States in nearly 25 years. Anthrax reproduces itself via spores, not unlike a mushroom, and can be caught in one of two ways: (i) by inhaling the spores (of which several thousand must lodge in the lungs before infection will occur), or (ii) by eating infected meat or handling infected animal products such as untreated hides or wool.

Symptoms of anthrax infection will vary depending on how a person became infected. Skin lesions may appear which, in the early stages, start with a bump that itches like a mosquito bite. It will then form a small sac and fill with liquid until it becomes a painless ulcer with a core of black, dead tissue. At this stage antibiotics are still quite effective in treating and even curing the infection.

If left untreated, intestinal infection can follow giving rise to such symptoms as nausea, loss of appetite, and vomiting which will develop into severe abdominal pain, vomiting of blood, and severe diarrhea. The odds of survival at this stage are between 40%-75%. If infection occurs via inhaled anthrax spores, the most deadly form, flu-like symptoms will emerge early on which will include fever, muscle aches, and fatigue. Between one and twenty-one days later, these symptoms will worsen and may include difficulty breathing and shock. The infection is nearly always fatal at this stage. The dire truth is that the majority of people would die from an anthrax infection without treatment, but the government has apparently already thought of that. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has developed a national stockpile containing large quantities of medical equipment as well as such antibiotics as Cipro, and within 12 hours these supplies are capable of being distributed to anyone who has been exposed to anthrax.

The best prescription for the citizens of America at this point is to not be overly fearful or overwhelmed by the mere idea of terrorism. A "new" biological agent test hailing from the Cold War era was announced on November 5, 2001 which can detect the presence of anthrax in less than an hour. Even the bustling American lifestyle has that kind of time.

Open Forum on Terrorism

By Yared Salgado
Entertainment Editor

On October 18, 2001, Mount St. Mary's College presented an open forum on the topic of terrorism. The event organized by, Dr. Dumont and Dr. Stemp of the Philosophy and Chemistry departments was open to students from both the Chalon and Doheny campuses in the lecture hall. Approximately sixty students gathered to voice their opinions on this tragic topic and much sadness as well as anger was expressed throughout the event.

Dr. Stemp initiated the forum with this provocative statement: "there is really no moral justification for the death of seven thousand people." Students and professors asked themselves and each other if there was any possible lesson to be learned by the terrorist attack against our country and our response. Others asked questions such as, "Are we solving anything by bombing another country?" Other queries revolved around theme of the United States, having been sheltered from overseas aggression in the past, can no longer be considered an "untouchable". Others indicated that the attack on the World Trade Center was merely the result of our foreign policy. Lives are now at stake, and no one feels safe. A question that went unanswered, even unopposed, was, does the United States have the right to defend itself from this disproportionate assault on us and our citizens?

One of the conclusions, of course, is that we can take this time to stand behind our President and our armed forces. Professor Dockstader stated that "justice and war are an element of retribution." Veronica, a student from the U.J. campus, stated, "we as a nation

depend on our government. Just as a child depends on her parents, we depend on our 'parents' to help us get through these difficult times." This is true to many, but others still wonder if the use of force can ever be an effective means of bringing an end to terrorism and bringing about a durable peace. Amanda Price, a Senior at the Chalon Campus mentioned, "like a lot of people, I'm [wondering] how much good bombing Afghanistan will do---it certainly won't eliminate the threat of terrorism, and it'll just fuel the cause against the 'big bad Americans'.

A student proffered the opinion that bombing another country can never be a solution. Terrorism has always been a threat and will continue to be so. Everyone needs to take the time to understand the root causes of the phenomenon, whether it is a response to our overly aggressive foreign policy or simply the result of "hatred for freedom".

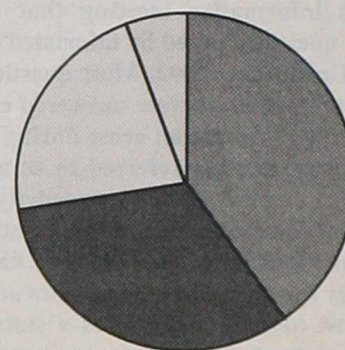
Another question posed was, "Is there any alternative response to these attacks, other than simply bombing our opponents. Can they be drawn into any kind of meaningful dialogic response?"

Wendy Duchon, a senior, concluded the forum with this brief statement: "we can make a difference. Rather than retaliation, let us look at solutions." Where there is a problem, there must always be a solution. "It is the time to realize", as Dr. Stemp pointed out, "that violence is wrong, and always begets more violence".

Many thoughts, questions and reflections were the fruit of this forum. We invite all to continue this dialogue through participation in the polls that will be sent out through the college's e-mail. Let us know what you think about this tragedy, and perhaps some thoughtful solutions may emerge.

Mounts response to flying after the attack on 9/11

Question: In light of the September 11th Tragedies, what is your feeling about air travel right now?



Extremely paranoid
Still nervous
Almost comfortable
No worries!

THE ORACLE

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Editorial: Moving On

At a moment when fear fills most of the nation, our government asks that we continue with our daily routines. Bewildered and bravely we accept this challenge, but yet in the back of our minds, we can not help but replay those bleak moments of September 11, 2001. Slowly we try to go back to our daily routine, searching inside of ourselves in hopes of finding the strength and hope necessary to go on. We know we need to feel normal and safe again.

Pondering on what I should do about this challenge, I find myself filled with melancholy and anger that it is this hard to go back to normalcy, but I realize that our nation needs me to be strong. Being a college student during this awful time, I find myself taking baby steps in order to achieve a sense of a mundane life.

Last Friday night I decided to go to the movies. While I was making line in order to enter the theater, something that would normally be inconvenient and upsetting, I was happy to see so many people trying to have a good time. While in line, my sister and I were discussing the Oracle. I was telling her that I was unsure of what I should write for the editorial. I knew that I wanted to focus on the joyful aspects of life, yet I could not ignore the events taking place. The man next to us in line suggested that I discuss the movie we were about to watch. He said it would be a good idea to write about the little escapes we can still enjoy in these trying times. His suggestion made me think and realize that, indeed, a simple trip to the movies was another baby step in our efforts to living a normal life. I continued to think of these baby steps as we watched K-PAX, a movie about a mentally ill patient who claims to be from another planet. Somewhere within that hour and a half, I finally allowed my mind to break from our harsh reality and truly enjoy the

immediate present moment of sitting in that theater with my friends and family. After the movie was over, I could not help but breathe a little easier. The movie helped me to realize why it was so important to go back to our daily lives and how I could do it. In the movie, the character played by Kevin Spacey comes across as a caring man, who because of his generous heart and compassion gives hope to people who stopped living life because it was too painful for them. Like a blinding ray of light, it just hit me!

The reason we cannot be consumed with our own fear is that we become isolated, insulated, self-centered individuals. Our efforts to go back to our daily lives have less to do with going back to our daily routine than an effort to go back to the compassionate, caring people we should be. Acts of terrorism might cause physical and economic damage to our nation, but we cannot let these acts ruin our efforts to be better people. I do not want to think of a world in which everyone is so consumed with their own fears and insecurities that compassion and generosity become something of the past.

I am not totally sure of how to go back to my normal life but I do know that baby steps are easier than giant leaps. Random acts of kindness, expressions of compassion and empathy, and giving to those more needy are as important as going out to dinner or the movies in our efforts to go back to normalcy. It explains why giving blood, listening to the victims, or organizing a food drive makes us feel better. We are refusing to let terrorists throw us off our path, a path illuminated by actions of compassion, empathy, generosity, and trust, among other things.

I am now embracing the challenge of going back to my normal life. I look forward to going out without paralyzing fear and trepidation.

Rape: Every Woman's Nightmare

By Geovanna Henao
Editor

Every Thursday night Yajaira goes to a bar. On this Thursday she needs to leave early but decides to get one more drink before she goes. On her way to the bar, a man invites her to a drink. She takes it, and the last thing she remembers is leaving the bar. Yajaira wakes up in front of her apartment building, completely naked under a U-Haul blanket, in a state of total confusion.

A woman is raped every five minutes in the United States. One in six women will experience rape during her lifetime. Mara Green, an outreach worker from the UCLA-Santa Monica Treatment Center states that the legal definition of rape "includes situations in which the act is committed when the victim is prevented from resisting or is unable to give consent due to being intoxicated, drugged or unconscious." Rape is an act of violence that every woman dreads.

Despite the number of rapes that occur daily, most go unreported. Green states that as few as 15% of college women report the crime. Over three-fourths of all rape cases occur to women 25 years of age or younger, and 90% of rape incidents on a college campus involve alcohol or drugs. Both the victim and the perpetrator are under the influence. Women are most vulnerable to assault when drinking at a social gathering. Drugs such as Rohypnol and GHB make it very easy for a rapist to single out a target. These drugs cause absence of resistance, amnesia, low reporting rates, and low probability

of providing evidence. The effect of these drugs are, causing women to forget about the events and making it harder to catch a criminal.

Rohypnol is the brand name for flunitrazepam. It was never FDA approved in the United States. However, many other countries use this drug as a pre-anesthetic. This drug is smuggled here and used as a sedative and as a central nervous system depressant in order to commit rape. Rohypnol working 15 to 30 minutes after ingestion, is a white colorless, and odorless tablet that dissolves in a matter of seconds when placed in a drink. It peaks within two hours, and lasts about 12 hours. The symptoms include confusion, dizziness, drowsiness, slurred speech, impaired judgement, visual disturbance and reduced levels of consciousness. It is very dangerous to combine this drug with alcohol. It will cause a drop in blood pressure, difficulty in breathing, coma and even death. Another prominent drug used by these criminals is GHB, gamma hydroxy butyrate, class one narcotic that has no medical use in the United States. It is made in basements and bathtubs, making it more dangerous. GHB is a fast acting drug working within 10 to 20 minutes after ingestion. It can make a victim unconscious in five minutes. GHB comes in a clear, colorless, odorless liquid that has a salty bitter taste. However, when put inside a drink the taste can be undetectable. GHB causes dizziness, vomiting, nausea, seizures, confusion, coma and death. There is no known anecdote for GHB, so if a person overdoses and their breathing stops, there is no drug to help. Green states that deaths due to these drugs have increased

500% a year. Green suggest that some of the ways to know if you have been drugged include, feeling more intoxicated than usual, waking up feeling hung over and not being able to place events.

It is not always necessary for alcohol and drugs to be present for a rape to occur. Green reports that 80% of rape is actually acquaintance rape. This rape is more traumatic for the survivor since the perpetrator was someone they trusted. If this statistic is true, women need to learn what social situations to avoid, self-defense techniques and how to recognize the signs of a possible rape and to choose friends wisely. In addition, when going to party, it is always better to go with a group to watch out for each other. She states that if a rape does occur, the survivor should go to a safe place and call a friend or family member. She also suggests that the survivor should preserve all physical evidence, not to shower and go to an ER. She realizes that many women feel the need to take shower soon after the crime and says that it is also understandable. However, the survivor must go to an ER in order to prevent any STD's or pregnancy. She urges the survivor to seek counseling, but emphasizes that it is up to them whether they want to contact the police. The survivor also has the option of freezing the evidence for up to 5 years if they are not ready to press charges. There is life after rape, but the woman must decide to begin the healing process. With assistance from friends, family and counselors, she can reclaim her sense of self, her sense of power, and her plans for the future.

Muslim Women: Shrouded in Silence

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

Quick – before anyone sees you! Pull that hood over your head and wipe off that lipstick! Put your head down and look humble! Walk quietly and don't speak to anyone. Stay at home if at all possible. After all, you're only a woman!

In Taliban-run Afghanistan, this is just a tiny glimpse of female life. Under the Taliban's "Ministry for Ordering What Is Right and Forbidding What Is Wrong," women are ordered to cover themselves from head to toe in long, heavy veils called burkas and women caught being improperly dressed in this manner are beaten. Shortly following the Taliban's seizure of Kabul, Afghanistan's capitol city, all girls' schools were closed and women were instantly forbidden from working. Since women comprised a significant portion of the workforce, hospitals lost nearly all personnel and orphanages and children's homes were left unstaffed. Women who were educated, had college degrees and were successful in their professions as educators, doctors, surgeons, accountants, business owners, and more were now being prevented from working at all by their own government. In the preceding years which had been ravaged by war, many of the male Afghani population was killed leaving these women to be the sole providers for their families. Now forced to stay at home and not work, many families faced dire circumstances. Additional rules were imposed which instated public stonings and hangings of women who had been in the company of men unrelated to them and life as they knew it was instantly over for these women.

Much of the basis for Islamic gender differences maintains that the soul of the Muslim woman is inferior to the souls of men. It is taught that men have great souls which have a capacity that the lesser souls of women do not have. Not only do men have more religious capacity, but more capacity for practically every-

thing. Every Muslim knows that men and women have different human natures, and that women have far more weaknesses thus making them inferior. For this reason, men must be the ones to be empowered and in charge. A Muslim man can marry a woman of any religion he chooses (preferably a Muslim woman but it's not a must), however the mate pool for Muslim women is limited solely to Muslim men. Is this so he can guide her "smallish" religious capacity lest she stray from the faith? The Qur'an itself, which is believed to be the infallible words of Allah, states that men are superior to and should control or run the lives of women since they are incapable of doing so themselves. As such, there are extreme double standards for men and women. For instance: women are not required to fast during the holy month of Ramadan, or go to war if a Jihad (holy war) is called, whereas these things are required of men. Women are not required to and are actually forbidden from producing an income, they can inherit money left to them by their parents (but not nearly as much as their brothers are entitled to), and can keep their own dowries if they divorce. Despite this, the way Islamic women throughout the Middle East are treated or perceived varies greatly. Saudi Arabian women are forbidden from driving cars or operating any type of machinery, but in Jordan women are allowed to go so far as to pilot planes.

A Muslim woman always belongs to someone. Women are their father's before marriage, and are the husband's after marriage. Muslim widows are encouraged not to re-marry. Another dissent in the moral gender code are such rules which state that both adultery and divorce are completely unforgivable for women, but are acceptable and tolerated for men. In fact, men have unilateral privilege in divorce and divorce is permissible anytime a wife is unsuitable or displeases the man in any way, even if he simply grows tired of her. Women are forbidden from having sexual relations with anyone besides her husband, but men are merely discouraged from having sexual relationships from other women besides his wife. Furthermore, a woman must be

accompanied by a man if she is making a pilgrimage to Mecca or Medina, the holiest destinations for Muslims. Women are not allowed to handle money or pay taxes to the mosque, particularly at the annual Muslim collection.

The hejab, or stringent Muslim dress code as seen by the long coats and body-concealing robes worn by Muslim women, are imposed partially for modesty, and partially for women's protection against men, with the thought there being to cover the jewels which would attract: face, hands, and feet. This helps to reduce the predatory nature of male instincts, to discourage impure thoughts or actions, to reduce women's tendencies to be vain and to attract, and because modesty encourages a woman's self esteem. The beauty of the body is restricted for the spouse. The hejab must be practiced from ages 9-60, or, just before and after when a female is to be seen as attractive to a male. In stricter Muslim countries, the government imposes "spies" who wander the streets looking for women who are not abiding by the rules of hejab or who are defying any other strict rules such as secretly being educated in home schools, or socializing with males. The dress code varies greatly for Muslim women: in Jordan, a head scarf and coat covering street clothes is sufficient; in Pakistan the shalwarkamiz is the traditionally worn loose pants and tunic. In Iran, where unmarried men and women are not even permitted to touch or speak on the telephone, black hooded cloaks which veil the body from face to toe are required for all women over age 9. Despite Western perceptions, the women wearers of hejab are often happy to wear them, feeling secure under the accompanying perception that wearing the hejab projects the understanding that they have good moral character. After all, if they did not abide by these dress codes, people might accidentally perceive them to be prostitutes.

Human rights groups have long sought to end the unfairness toward women in Afghanistan and other Islamic nations but as long as the Taliban is empowered, the rigid standards by which women are expected to adhere will only continue.

BARELY LEGAL: ARE THE STROKES THE SAVIORS OF ROCK N' ROLL?

By Erika S. Anaya
Reporter

Everyone, please, gather round. Let us bow our heads, clasp hands, and offer up a mournful prayer for the faithfully departed: Rock n' Roll is dead.

Dramatic? Yes. But doesn't it seem like rock is dead? Want proof? Take a look at the music charts. With all the Britney's, Mandy's, boy/girl vocal groups, and gimmicky rap-metal bands that have dominated the charts for what seems like decades now, those who relish songwriters and musicians have had little to get excited over. Rock n' Roll. Those words conjure up a landscape of visions: the swagger of Elvis, the sultry pout of Mick Jagger, the strut of Iggy Pop, the growl of Kurt Cobain. Rock n' Roll since its creation has been the war cry of the American people - it expresses our passion, our fury, and our heart. So where has it gone? And who will resurrect it? Try asking those questions to many rock journalists and they may all share the same answer - Where: New York City, Who: The Strokes.

Who are The Strokes you ask? Many of you may not know who they are, but you will. Just ask the UK where they're being referred to as the

'American Oasis' (not exactly a compliment) and are currently number two on the pop charts. Picture this: Five impossibly handsome, lanky, shaggy-haired college drop-out's who dress in shabby-chic leather and skinny ties, all raised in affluent families and two of them taught in Swiss boarding schools. Ok, not exactly the seedy and gritty rock 'n' roller's one pictures. Fronted by twenty-two year old Julian Casablancas (son of modeling agent mogul, John) the Strokes are generating hype and buzz so huge that they sold out their UK and US tours before releasing their first album. A major label bidding war soon followed with RCA winning the deal.

When I purchased their debut album *Is This It* (which was released last month) I admit I was skeptical of these so-called saviors of rock. I put aside the super-cool, art-rock image and hype they possess and popped the CD into the stereo. What I heard was thirty-six minutes of catchy, urgent, infectious tunes with smart lyrics that were devoid of pretension. I must admit, their songs reeled me in. Their music is reminiscent of late 70's NYC punk and 60's British mod rock. These are lads who have clutched their vintage vinyl records to their hearts and have been schooled by great professors like The

Velvet Underground, The Ramones, The Stooges, and Talking Heads. Just sprinkle in early Rolling Stones, Who, and The Jam, and voila! You have The Strokes.

Rolling Stone magazine has deemed The Strokes "the best band in America." The British music magazine NME even went so far as to say, "that a band like The Strokes only comes along once in a lifetime. You should be grateful that they've come along in yours." No doubt these are grand statements. So again the question is asked, are The Strokes the saviors of rock n' roll? That's an impossible and ridiculous question to answer. But I do know this, the Strokes have been able to do something that has long been missing in the current music industry: they have brought back an excitement and energy that has been desperately needed. When NME asked Julian Casablancas why he thought the industry had fallen for The Strokes, he simply said: "I don't want to sound like a cocky bastard but we are young and good looking and the music is good." Hallelujah for The Strokes.

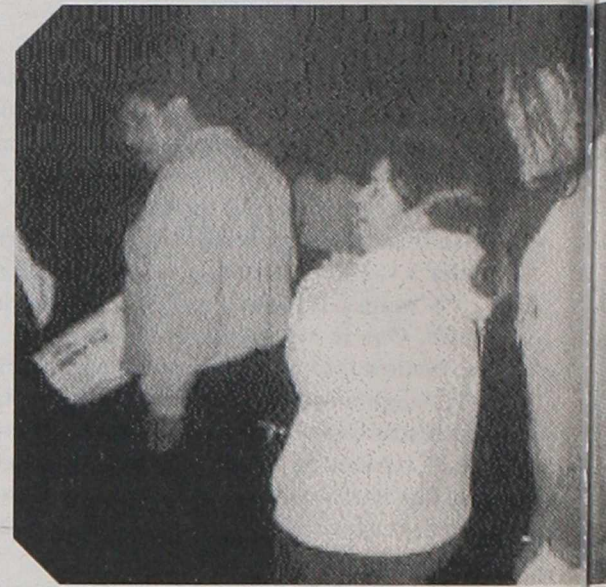
Doheny Mansion: This Year's Halloween

By Karla Santana
Advertising Editor

The tradition was broken. As in the past the annual Doheny Hunted Mansion event was running on task when about two weeks prior to the event President Doud made some changes. President Doud along with administration announced that this year the Hunted Mansion was to be a more secretive peaceful event that would not attract to many individuals. The Haunted Mansion was renamed Neighborhood Trick or Treat. Unlike other years the long awaited event was transformed in to a small community trick or treating with out the mazes and games. The event ran from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. A lot of changes were made to the celebration and it was a decision taken by administration after the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Administration wanted to prevent a large crowd from forming and felt the need to provide safety for the students and the community due to the chaos and continuing attack scares. This year the candy was to be raised within the Mount Saint Mary's community without outside help being involved.

The decoration of the campus had to be subordinate to other years. The event was held on Halloween night and trick or treaters from the community were welcomed. As in the past a goal for candy was set, fortunately this time it surpassed the goal. "Thanks to Mount Saint Mary's and the students we were able to raise 1,200lbs of candy to give to the community," stated Shaquanda Branch assistant coordinator of the event. There was stricter security on campus both LAPD and students helped this event become successful and prevented any chaos.

Committees were set up to oversee all the assignments. Students were responsible to make sure the event ran smoothly and properly. At the end, the Halloween Spirit was present and everyone was very active. Although the tradition was broken, the event was a great triumph.



Isabel Estrada screams as se

Gossip C

From the Lips of Ms M

Courtney, Courtney, Courtney a real lady knows her After her opening set for Jane's Addiction, on Nov 27 Despite the roadies packing up the equipment & the la Finally, she was led off the stage despite her curse, an

Justin Timberlake, here's some advice: not all tha gli A book deal fell through, for this teen sensation. Hey Justin, maybe not all your fans like to read by, b By the way, is living with Britney a mortal temptation

Hey, to those two "men" out there who got in a scuffle At least fight one-to-one or pick on someone your own The Oscar-winning actor responded with a few god b Not bad for someone 71 years of age fighting a person

Tim Burton the artistic genius of the golden screen Chose English actress Helena Bonham-Carter over his The relationship is very new, only six weeks (depending Such impetuosity! Watch out Helena, you might be left

Speaking of those wonderful Brits, Radiohead has won Well, at least according to Q Magazine in the U.K Funny, did everyone in the world get to vote? My ballot never reached me. Hmm, maybe it got lost or So a certain "friend" named Jennifer was rumored to But the smoke has cleared and we find that isn't the ca However, another rumor has surfaced that Jenn may h Wonder Women set to save the human race!

Speaking of babies, Andre Agassi and Stefi Graf are pr The German press, citing the baby boy, Jaden Gil as " Then gushing over Stefi's many, many career highlights Don't forget, Andre isn't a shabby tennis player either;

J-Lo, a storm's a-brewin! A \$12 million dollar one She's replacing Halle Barry in X-Men 2 Also, she'll star in a movie with Ben Affleck soon. Enough of you already, exit stage left from the news.



Photographer: Isabel Estrada
she is scared by the monster.

Column

M. Belle Isher

men to give it a rest, love.
27th she refused to leave the stage
the lack of love from the crowd.
anger and rage.

glitters writes gold

big, big books
tation?

He with actor Gene Hackman'
own age!
blows of his own.
on with road rage. (Kudos Gene!)

his girlfriend of several years
ending on their status today)
left in tears.

won the title "World's Best Band"

list on its way.
to be expecting
the case
may have a new role

are proud new parents
as "The Baby of the Year"
ights in her past
er; least he's continuing his career.

Knott's Berry Farm Proves You can Teach an Old Haunt New Tricks

Maria Ochoa
Freelance Writer

(Buena Park, Ca) Since 1973 Knott's Berry Farm theme park has morphed into Knott's Scary Farm, a Halloween event aimed at an adult crowd. Although Knott's originated the haunted theme park, other parks, such as Magic Mountain, have adopted similar events making a once breakthrough, cutting-edge idea another avenue for rivalry. Yet Knott's still remains a Halloween staple and in 2001 it sought to regain the leading edge offering five new mazes including re-themed rides along with stage shows hosted by Knott's self-proclaimed "Gruesome Twosome" Elvira, Mistress of the Dark and the Crypt-Keeper.

This year's haunt included four "Scare Zones" : The Gauntlet, CarnEvil, The Swamp, and The Ghost Town. The Gauntlet, usually known as "Camp Snoopy", was created to mirror a once-tranquil kingdom ravaged by pestilence whose vengeful, tortured souls seek to "search for the one responsible- unleashing their fury on anyone who dares to run the Gauntlet!" The fiends in this zone were quiet but effective, creeping up on the unsuspecting. Knott's Boardwalk turned into CarnEvil, where MardiGras meets misery and mayhem with surreal freaks and circus folk decked out in neon. It makes one think of the Jim Rose Circus Sideshow at a Rave.

Contrary to popular belief the event doesn't sellout every night so you can almost always find admission at the door. Yet, all in all Knott's does a great job of entertaining its guests with ghoulish senses of humors and those looking for a good fright. Halloween Haunt patrons could probably do without the constant reminders that it is an "Adult" event, but nonetheless if you steer clear of corny comedic cabaret acts, you'll truly have one hell of a good time at next year's Haunt. Knott's Berry Farm is located at 8039 Beach Blvd in Buena Park, Ca. 90620. For directions and ticket information call (714) 220-5200.



Photographer: Isabel Estrada
Knotts proved to be a scream

Poetry Corner

Voyages II

Hart Crane

--And yet this great wink of eternity,
Of rimless floods, unfettered leewardings,
Samite sheeted and processioned where
Her undinal vast belly moonward bends,
Laughing the wrapt inflections of our love;

Take this Sea, whose diapason knells
On scrolls of silver snowy sentences,
The sceptred terror of whose sessions rends
As her demeanors motion well or ill,
All but the pieties of lovers' hands.

And onward, as bells off San Salvador
Salute the crocus lustres of the stars,
In these poinsettia meadows of her tides,--
Adagios of islands, O my Prodigal,
Complete the dark confessions her veins spell.

Mark how her turning shoulders wind the hours,
And hasten while her penniless rich palms
Pass superscription of bent foam and wave,--
Hasten, while they are true,--sleep, death, desire,
Close round one instant in one floating flower.

Bind us in time, O Seasons clear, and awe.
O minstrel galleons of Carib fire,
Bequeath us to no earthly shore until
Is answered in the vortex of our grave
The seal's wide spindrift gaze toward paradise.

From The Complete Poems and Selected Letters and Prose of Hart Crane by Hart Crane, edited with an introduction and notes by Brom Weber. Used with the permission of Liveright Publishing Corporation. Copyright © 1933, 1958, 1966 by Liveright Publishing Corporation.

If you would like to submit your own creative writing, please contact Lorena at anasant@msmc.la.edu.

MSMC Security Guards Ensuring Our Safety

By April Aguirre
Reporter

With such news of anthrax scares and extreme airport precautions currently topping headlines, it's only natural to question our personal safety. What measures are being taken to protect the student body of Mount St. Mary's? Who is responsible for ensuring our well-being? The answer to these questions can only be answered by those who are expected to shield us from harm – the security guards themselves.

Roy Lucius of Mount St. Mary's Chalon campus and Willy Chrome of the Doheny campus were kind enough to answer a number of questions regarding their responsibilities.

Willy Chrome recently began working for the Mount community after having served for twenty-two years in the United States Army. Mr. Chrome commented on the tranquility of Doheny campus, mentioning how it was "very safe" especially since the USC Campus Police is in the neighborhood and the Los Angeles Police Department patrol the area at least once a night. The nine security guards who work in varied shifts at the Doheny campus are responsible for observing the campus and reporting any

suspicious behavior. Security must also make sure that nothing is out of the ordinary when checking visitors in and out. Mr. Chrome takes these safety measures very seriously especially since the students of the Mount are between the ages of 18-24, the same age category that his own daughter falls into.

Roy Lucius, Second Lieutenant at the Chalon campus, chose Mount St. Mary's College for its positive atmosphere and because it is an educational institution. Mr. Lucius is the longest tenured of all twelve security guards at Chalon, embarking on four years of service with the Mount. Prior to his position at MSMC, Mr. Lucius gained 25 years of experience at Quarter Century Security. His primary responsibilities, like those of Mr. Chrome, include patrolling the campus and observing for any abnormal behavior, and he also ensures that lights are turned off and doors are locked.

Though their uniformed attire and stoic expressions may make the guards seem distant, the security guards of Mount St. Mary's are honestly concerned about the safety of the students. Mr. Chrome emphasized his enjoyment of helping and protecting others, while Mr. Lucius made a point that should reassure us all, "That's what I'm here for: your safety and security."

Osama Bin Laden: The Big Media Tease

By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 catapulted the United States into an open war on Terrorism. The media is caught in a frenzy of depicting the war with daily reports about military strikes and enemies. One of the biggest pieces of news being reported on is the enemy-- Osama Bin Laden. There is a rush to learn every tidbit on this man. On television reports, many news groups have given biographical information on Osama Bin Laden. We have learned about his immense wealth, his CIA training, and his absolute hatred for America and what it stands for. Therefore, the mixed reaction to CNN planning to interview Osama Bin Laden, is without warrant. The "interview", if it goes through, will not be like traditional sit-down interviews we have become so accustomed to in the media. The way CNN is going about it is to "submit six questions . . . among them whether Mr. Bin Laden or his followers [have] weapons of mass destruction and, if so, [plan] to use them." CNN sent the questions on

October 16, 2001 after "receiving invitations to do so from people identifying themselves as representatives of Mr. Bin Laden's terrorist organization, Al Qaeda." As of today, there has been no response. Another news network that has sent in questions to Bin Laden is the Al Jazeera network, considered the "CNN of the Middle East" by our own press. Their questions have gone unanswered as well. Apparently, they did make it clear that their network does not want "extended statements from Mr. Bin Laden that were not responses to questions." Mohammed Jassim el-Ali, the managing director of Al Jazeera, said "We don't want more statements . . . that's why they [Bin Laden's representatives] have stopped sending us these statements. They will have to concentrate on answering our questions." However, on the American end, CNN does not expect an answer from the elusive Bin Laden. The chief news executive, Eason Jordan, says, "If we never get a response, I would not be shocked."

Thoughts from Mount Students

On October 22nd, Mt. St. Mary's Chalon Campus offered students the opportunity to watch Jung (War) in the Land of the Mujahed, a documentary showing an Italian group in their quest to build a hospital. The film also showed conditions of the suffering Afghanistan people by the affects of civil war.

"I walked out numb. There are no words that could describe the feeling that I felt last night after watching the movie and being present in the discussion." Raelynn Pili

"While I appreciated the good intentions of the film – in trying to raise awareness, I felt the film was repetitive and unnecessarily graphic." Melanie Drummond

"I thought it was really informative. I learned a lot from the Afghanistan people – what they're fighting for, their purpose. I never understood that." Alejandra Figueroa

"It was too graphic for me. But it was informative. I learned a lot." Alejandra Tellez

"I think it's good because you can see the people. You can actually visualize what they've been suffering. It's something you see – the consequence of war. It helped me think about the war [and that] we have to be conscious of the innocent people and be responsible for what we're doing." Cherish Hui

"The most moving scenes in the documentary are of the people, who were injured by the Taliban, calling out for Allah's help – the same Allah that the Taliban claim to fight for." Laarni Paras

Bling-Bling! Two are better than one.

By Karla Santana
Advertising Editor

The Staples Center now houses two professional basketball champions; the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks and the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers. With these victories Los Angeles became the first city to swank both the WNBA and the NBA. The cleaning had barely ended when it was time to pop the second champagne bottle and celebrate the Spark's victory. The Sparks beat the Charlotte Sting's by a historical difference of 28 points. This was the highest gap in points in a victory for the WNBA history. The Sparks obtained their first championship in the five-year history of the WNBA. A sell-out crowd of 13,141 at the Staples Center, watched the Sparks accomplish their first championship victory. Sparks coach and former Lakers player Michael Cooper became the first person to win both a WNBA and a NBA championship titles. The Sparks went through the regular season unbeaten at the Staples Center and finished with an 18-1 home record.

The Spark's most dominating player continues to be Center Lisa Leslie. Leslie dominated the court with a cap 24 points and 13 rebounds and a WNBA championship record of 7 blocks to bring the Sparks to an 82-54 defeat over the Charlotte Sting and a two-game sweep in the series. Leslie continued making history by becoming the fourth professional basketball player to brush away all three Most Valuable Player Awards, for regular season, All-Star and Championship in the same season. She joins a team made up of all men with her being the exception; Willis Reed (69-70), Michael Jordan (95-96, 97-98) and Shaquille O'Neal (99-00).

There were others who had a great amount of contribution towards the team's victory.



NBA Schedule LA Lakers

November

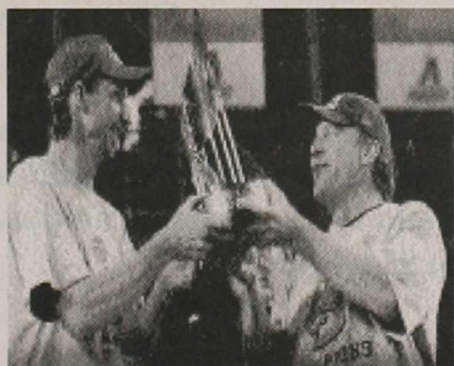
16 Fri @ Phoenix 6:00 pm
KCAL
18 Sun Sacramento 6:30 pm
20 Tue @ L.A. Clippers 7:30 pm
KCAL
21 Wed @ Denver 6:00 pm
KCAL
23 Fri Golden State 7:30 pm
FSW1
25 Sun Denver 6:30 pm
FSW1
27 Tue Milwaukee 7:30 pm
FSW1/TBS
30 Fri @ Seattle 7:00 pm
KCAL

The Diamondbacks end Yankee Dynasty

By Geovanna Henao
Editor

A fabulous World Series ends after Arizona Diamondback Luis Gonzalez singles home the game-winning run. Arizona beat the three-time champion New York Yankees, 3-2 at home.

During this series, it was impossible to guess who would take the title. Diamondbacks and Yankees provided the nation with a seven game series that left us with anticipation and uncertainty until the last inning of the last game. It was the bottom of the ninth inning with Arizona down by one. Most people expected the Yankees to claim their fourth title but suddenly things began to go wrong for Yankee pitcher, Mariano Rivera. He allowed Tony Womack to tie the game with a RBI double and then hit Craig Consell, loading the bases with only one Arizona out. Arizona still had hope! Then, Luis Gonzalez came up to bat. The crowd and the viewers watched with amazement as Gonzalez singled to center field and brought the winning run home. The Bank One Ballpark went wild as the Arizona players ran into the field to celebrate their victory.



www.mlb.com

The whole Arizona team played with intensity and fought for the win. However, who was going to be the MVP? It was impossible to choose only one MVP, so both Curt Shilling and Randy Johnson received the honor. These two pitchers allowed only two runs to come in during the game and accounted for the four Arizona victories.

This is the first championship for the four-year expansion franchise. They are also the first expansion team to win a championship in so short a time. They indeed earned the title. They outscored the Yankee team 37 to 14 during this series and put to an end the Yankee Dynasty. At least for now.

NFL Takes Safety Precautions

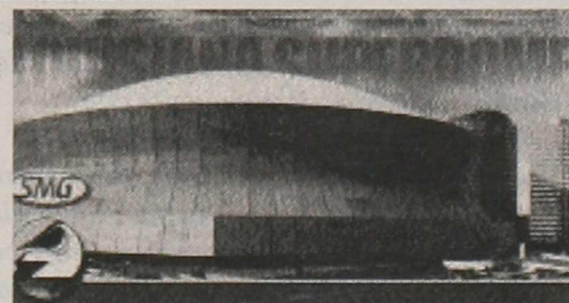
By Geovanna Henao
Editor

The 2002 Super Bowl XXXVI will be at the Superdome in New Orleans on February 6. The Super Bowl is usually the last week of January, but due to the terrorist attacks on September 11, it has been delayed a week.

New Orleans has hosted six successful Super Bowls in their history. However, on November 5, due to the situations that our nation is undergoing, the league asked Tom Ridge, the President's Director of Homeland Security, to provide security services during the championship game. They want to ensure everyone's safety. If approved, this would then authorize the FBI and Secret Service to be an active part of security. State and city police will also provide their services for this event.

Everyone, as usual, will be checked at the gate, however, there will also be extra precaution in order to avoid any type of tragedy. The main concern is not the game, but rather the events before the game where many people come together, creating large groups.

Despite the events our nation is dealing with, the league and the city are hopeful that another great Super Bowl will take place, not only for the football fans, rather for the whole nation.



www.nfl.com

ASB Ticket Office

The ticket office is still selling discounted tickets to AMC theaters (\$5 and \$7) and Universal Studios (\$26). Stop by the Student Activities and Commuter Services every Thursday and Friday between 10:00AM and 12:00PM.

Congratulations to Wendy Duchen!

At the Model United Nations Hollywood Conference on October 27th, Wendy Duchen won an award for her work on the Security Council as the representative of France!

Events for the Month of November

* The Academy's Tribute to Elmer Bernstein will be followed by a screening series at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. A dozen films for which Bernstein composed music, including the Oscar nominated "The Man with the Golden Arm" and "To Kill a Mockingbird", will be screened beginning November 9 and continuing through December 1. For information about this series, please call (323) 857-6010 or visit www.lacma.org

* Are you interested in screenwriting and would like to be one of the finalists selected by the Academy Motion Picture Arts and Sciences? Be one of the five selected and receive a \$30,000 fellowship. For more information contact the Entertainment editor at yaresalg@msmc.la.edu.

* Interested in Foreign art? Well, come to the 21st Annual Festival of Jewish Artisans on November 17 & 18 at Temple Isaiah, in the city of L.A. Regular admission is \$4.00. Come and enjoy a concert and nearly 30 artists Exhibitions from U.S., Italy, and Israel. For more information call (310) 277-2772 or visit www.TempleIsaiah.com

* This month at the Getty Museum through February 17, 2002, Mr. Manuel Alvarez Bravo: Optical Parables will hold an exhibition of more than 100 rare photographs of Mr. Bravo. Also come and celebrate the Mexican artist long hailed as one of the great masters of 20th century photography. For more information call (310) 440-7360 or visit www.getty.edu

If you would like to attend one of these events and would like to write an article about it, the oracle will pay your entrance fee. For more information please contact the entertainment editor at yaresalg@msmc.la.edu

Career Center

H401, ext. 4070

Internships

For more information on the internships listed below, please review the Internship binder located in the Career Center in H401.

Company Name: Warren Cowan & Associates
Location: West Hollywood
Internship Position: Entertainment PR Intern

Company Name: Bridget Johnson Films Location
Location: Century City
Internship Position: Feature Film Intern

Company Name: Inquizit Technologies
Location: Santa Monica
Internship Position: Marketing Intern

Company Name: Kosmont Partners
Location: Los Angeles
Internship Position: Research Intern

For other intership information, please contact the career center.

Urban Interns

Are you interested in Volunteering?

Do you want to get involved in the Los Angeles Community?

Come and visit the center for Urban Partnership to learn about great opportunities! We are located in Building One at the Doheny Campus, and Brady Patio at the Chalon Campus. You can reach us at (310) 477-2548 or (310) 954-4079.

Do you love to write?

Do you want to be part of a great team?

Do you want to improve your Resume?

Join the Oracle!

If you are interested, please contact Geovanna Henao, the Editor In Chief at (310) 954-4469 or stop by the Oracle Office located in the Brady Patio.



THE ORACLE

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"Two Campuses, One Mission"

January 25, 2002

12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049
10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Volume 8
Number 2

President Bush Holds 'Town Hall Meeting' in SoCal

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

President George W. Bush encountered a spirited throng of over 5,000 supporters for an hour-long "Town Hall Meeting" on Saturday, January 5 which was held at the Ontario Convention Center. Marking the President's third visit to California since his inauguration, Ontario was the first destination in a two-stop trip to Western states which also included Portland, Oregon. Even while the 'War Against Terrorism' campaign is in full throttle, President Bush is simultaneously directing his attention inward to focus on domestic and economic issues, a move which critics blame his father for specifically neglecting while in the throes of the Persian Gulf War, thus costing him a second term.

Ontario was chosen partly in an attempt to further stimulate the largely growing support for President Bush within California's wide Latino community. The Inland Empire is home to numerous Latino-owned businesses and organizations such as the Ontario Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Business Association, HOPE -- Hispanas Organized

for Political Equality, and many others. The venue highlighted the area's cultural, political and socioeconomic diversity, in addition to demonstrating the ever-growing foothold of Latino political and business leadership. As a unifying show of support, the President came onstage to a standing ovation and greeted the crowd in Spanish.



Photo Courtesy of CNN

The President spoke about various measures by which he hopes to stimulate the economy specifically vowing against any future tax increases for the American population. He touched on such topics as the war in Afghanistan, continued efforts against terrorism both foreign and domestic, his support for greater Pell Grants for students, and elementary school reading-

programs. Audience members asked questions about how best to pray for the President and his family, what his first thoughts were after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, future developments for higher education specifically among community colleges, the transferability of the Montgomery GI bill, the status of an amendment banning flag desecration, and the President's plans to disentangle immigration and to facilitate the reunification of families on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The President detailed his interest in improving the INS and supporting stronger ties to Mexico including his desire to see a stronger Mexico and the development of a Mexican middle class.

A recent nationwide Gallup poll showed President Bush carrying a 92% approval rating. The nation apparently feels similarly to Mr. Doug Cogan, the Town Hall audience member who told the President that his son-in-law had just returned from service on the U.S.S. Enterprise during the ongoing war in Afghanistan, and that he and the ship's crew "are honored to call you their Commander In Chief."

New Hot Spot: Hollywood and Highland

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

For those who have not yet ventured off The Mount to visit L.A.'s newest hot-spot, "Hollywood and Highland" beckons. Somewhat reminiscent of a kitschy Las Vegas hotel, the new urban entertainment center boasts an impressive array of mall shops (think Sephora, Victoria's Secret, Banana Republic/Gap and others), restaurants and quick treats (California Pizza Kitchen, sushi, shabu shabu, Wolfgang Puck, Cold Stone Creamery), bars, cafés, clubs, and theaters including the Kodak Theater, which is to be the new site of the Academy Awards. The center backs up to the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and the former Graumann's Chinese Theater, along with a 6-screen Multiplex Cinema. An intended revival of the "golden age of Hollywood," Hollywood and Highland has

all the showy thrills that tourists would expect from Hollywood complete with massive stone columns and archways topped with enormous elephants behind which the Hollywood sign provides a perfectly bordered backdrop. Included is Debbie Reynolds' Hollywood Motion Picture Collection which is a storyboard layout of her 40-year collection of various Hollywood relics such as props, photos and costumes. Another must-see is the "Road to Hollywood" which gives a walking mosaic pictorial of average, everyday people who came to Tinsel Town to try to "make it" in show business. Some of them grew to be stars, some did not but all are anonymous. As far as transportation, get there any way you can. "Orange Court" is a special drop-off area for buses, and there's a Metro Railway Subway Station from where you can continue your day to either Universal City or downtown L.A.

A glamorized illustration of Hollywood history, the scene at Hollywood and Highland is a fun way to "premiere yourself," as the center's slogan goes, in a setting that is often star-studded and just so L.A.

For more information visit www.hollywoodandhighland.com or www.theroadtohollywood.com.



Photo Courtesy of www.theroadtohollywood.com

Residence Halls Begin Improvement

By Geovanna Henao
Editor in Chief

During our holiday break, the Mount took initiative in improving our Residence Halls. The Mount did not notify the residents because they were unaware of how much work was going to be done in the halls. Neil Yoneji, Vice President of Administration and Finance, apologized for the miscommunication in a notice he sent out to all residents January 11, 2002,, which also described the facility work that was done to the halls.

Yoneji began the first phase of three in the Brady and Carondelet Halls. The work put into Brady Hall mainly consists of electrical services. Electrical outlets and bathroom heaters were

replaced in order to make power outages less likely. In Carondelet Hall, the emphasis was in plumbing. In the notice Yoneji sent out he wrote, "shower controls were changed to minimize abrupt changes in water temperature while showering; in addition, a number of rooms were repainted." Facilities Management has posted up signs alerting the residents that work will continue until Monday, February 4, 2002.

The next two phases will continue in coordination with the office of Residence Life. They will take place during the summer 2002 break. Yoneji suggests that any questions or concerns be directed to the attention of the halls Resident Assistant.

LIVE ON CAMPUS FOR FREE!

Applications for the Resident Assistant positions (RA) for 2002-2003 will be available Tuesday, January 22 at the Residence Life Office, the Student Activities Office, and the Student Affairs Office at both Chalon and Doheny.

Positions available: 8 at Doheny, 12 at Chalon, and 2 anticipated at the University of Judaism

Applications are due no later than Friday, February 15, 2002 by 4:30 pm to the Residence Life Office at either campus.

Announcements will be made on Friday, March 8, 2002.

For more information stop by the Residence Life Office or call Chalon: (310) 954-4325, Doheny: (213) 477-2661.

THE ORACLE

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Editorial: Graduation on Campus

Dear Oracle Editor,

I read with great interest the article on graduation in the November 16th issue. In fact, I read it more than once and realized that the article never mentions that graduation has always been held on campus except for the last three years. As a 1962 graduate and faculty member since 1976, I can personally attest to this.

Graduation is an institutional function. Graduation is also about tradition. Graduation is a commencement, a beginning. I have never been to a Mount graduation on campus, and I have attended many, without thinking of the scores of women who participated in the same ceremony with whom I share a common bond. Women who paved the way for me, just as this graduating class will continue to pave the path.

When you graduate this spring you will be walking in the exact footsteps that we all walked as you begin the next phase of your life in the setting in which you studied, made lifetime friends and became Mount alumnae. These are the memories that you will cherish and share with many others not just the class of 2002. The next time you cross the circle stop and really take a look. It's a magnificent place and when graduation comes relish the moment and take in the extraordinary beauty of the event.

In the November 16th issue our front page article, "Is Graduation an Institutional Function?" caused many reactions from Mount faculty and students. As many of you might know, this article discussed the events of the senior class meeting concerning graduation of 2002. This article written by a concerned senior explains what the new changes are for this year's graduating class. The main controversy over this year's graduation concerns the site. In the last couple of year's graduation has been held at the Shrine Auditorium in Downtown Los Angeles. However, this year, graduation will take place here at the Mount in the circle. Many seniors feel that the circle is too small and the amount of their guests will be limited. The Mount administration took appropriate measures in explaining the facts in the meeting held on November 1st in the Lecture Hall. However, many seniors still remained upset about this new change. But is this idea of having graduation on campus new and absurd?

A couple of weeks after the November 16th issue, I received a letter from Mary C. Sloper, the Chair of Business Administration and also a Mount alumnae. This letter suggests that this new idea is not new, but rather it is simply trying to relive an old tradition. A tradition that offers some emotional memories that can be recaptured during this stepping stone. Now taking her perspective, graduation can be fulfilling regardless of the change that so many find as annoying. Graduating in the campus that so many of us cherish can be a wonderful event. It is up to us then to accept and appreciate this change and to "stop and really take a look."

John Walker: California Kid to Muslim Militant

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

To his American parents, Frank Lindh and Marilyn Walker, he is John Phillip Walker Lindh, named after John Lennon, the Beatle. His Muslim comrades know him as Suleyman al-Faris, or by his warrior name, Abdul Hamid. To the Taliban he is a fighter. To many in the U.S., he is the next Benedict Arnold – an American traitor.



John Walker in a Taliban prison
Photo courtesy of CBS

The 20-year-old Californian from San Anselmo, Marin County who was captured from an Afghani Taliban prison following an uprising there in early December, 2001 will probably not be tried for treason due to a lack of sufficient evidence for him to be charged as a U.S. traitor. Walker has admitted to being a paid mercenary for bin Laden. He boasted at not being affiliated merely with the Taliban but with al-Qaeda, and that he participated in weapons and explosives training in terrorist camps. He calls himself a "jihadist," or holy warrior. When asked if the Taliban's cause was a right one, Walker responded, "Definitely." He indicated no sympathy for the bombing of the USS Cole in a Yemeni harbor last year which killed 17 American sailors, rather calling the American ship's entrance into the harbor to refuel as "an act of war against Islam." He has expressly "supported" the terrorist attacks of September 11.

The interrogation of Walker continues as charges are considered, one or more of which may

be "providing material support to a terrorist group" or being tried as an "enemy belligerent." A conviction under the latter could result in the death penalty, whereas a conviction under the former brings with it a maximum sentencing of life imprisonment. Treason would be hardest to prove, considering the stringent parameters set forth by the U.S. Constitution in order to obtain a conviction: (i) two eyewitnesses must testify against Walker for treason, or (ii) Walker must confess to treason in court saying that he knowingly and willingly fought against the United States. The U.S. government is currently in possession of a videotape interview of Walker which confirms that he was fully cognizant of his actions and was not brainwashed, misguided, or acting as a naïve



Damien Degueldre
Gamma Press

teenager, however this is not enough to substantiate a treason allegation.

Walker, who was baptized Catholic, converted to Islam at the age of 16 shortly after reading "The Autobiography of Malcolm X."

He told his parents, who were supportive of his conversion and "proud of John for pursuing an alternative course," that he had chosen Islam because it is a gentle, peace-loving religion. In the following year, 1998, his parents paid for him to go alone to Yemen where he remained for ten months. His goal was to learn Arabic so that he might mem-

orize the Quran and the Sharia in their purest Arabic forms. He returned home to the U.S. and spent a brief period with his parents before he again left for the Middle East in early 2000. He traveled this time to Pakistan where he enrolled in a strict Islamic fundamentalist school and was an exemplary student. At the school where he slept on a rope bed in his teacher's study, had no hot water, and no electricity later than 10 pm, he devoted his free time exclusively to reading books on Islam, and concentrated his efforts on how to become a more devout Muslim. He later traveled to Afghanistan where he joined the Taliban militant fighters and became associated with bin Laden through the al-Qaeda network. Upon his emergence following the prison battle, Walker's parents called their son a "victim," "sweet," "shy" and a "good boy." They were stunned to learn that his quest for Islam had led him to becoming involved with terrorists but said of Walker's activities that they "don't think John was doing anything wrong." Even while being fully aware of their son's frighteningly anti-American political sentiments, Walker's parents continued to send him money.

Walker was recently transferred from Camp Rhino outside Kandahar, Afghanistan where he was being held, to the assault carrier USS Bataan along with several hundred other Taliban and al-Qaeda suspects. They may be transferred to an internment camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba while the U.S. government decides what to do with them. Walker may prove to be a good source for the government to learn more about al-Qaeda's methods of recruitment, and other intelligence while the exact charges to be brought against him are determined.

In the meantime, the name "movie star" may soon be added to the list of John Walker's various monikers as several movie production companies are reportedly entertaining script ideas for a movie detailing his life.

Guantanamo: Are the detainees being treated humanely?

By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

The war continues in Afghanistan as more prisoners are brought to the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The flight from Kandahar to Guantanamo Bay is a 15 hour flight for the group of 15-20 detainees. Completely shaved, sedated, hooded and chained these detainees are brought to this U.S. base in southern Cuba. This base, which is overseen by the U.S. Southern Command, can currently house up to 100 prisoners but construction is underway so that it will soon accommodate up to 600 detainees.

Concerns are being expressed about the treatment of Taliban and Al Qaeda detainees in Guantanamo. In particular, Amnesty International has issued a statement objecting the "heavy restraints" used during the flights. As CNN reports, Amnesty International finds the reports that the detainees were hooded, drugged and shackled "worrying." Amnesty International, who has stated that "all those in

U.S. custody . . . must be treated humanely, with full respect for international standards," also objects to the prison conditions at Guantanamo. Every detainee "will initially stay in an outdoor cell with a wooden ceiling and sides made of chain-link fence until the construction of a detention facility is completed."

On the other hand, the extremely heavy security at Guantanamo Bay is seen as necessary to others especially after reports that some detainees have vowed to kill as many Americans as possible before they leave the base. Officials report that the detainees are being "treated humanely in accordance with the Geneva convention" even though they are not considered "prisoners of war" by the U.S. But, U.N. human rights chief Mary Robinson has stated that the Cuban detainees are indeed prisoners of war and are "entitled to the protection of international law." Washington's view differs on the prisoners. They consider the detainees "illegal combatants" and therefore not protected by the Geneva Convention's rights for prisoners. Nonetheless, there will be a delegation from the International

Committee of the Red Cross to visit the base on Thursday. CNN reports that the delegation will "be made up of four members of the ICRC, including a doctor and two linguists fluent in Arabic, Urdu and English, the languages spoken by the detainees." A doctor and a detainee will stay on indefinitely.

As reported live from Guantanamo on January 17th, by Fox News correspondent Orlando Salinas, there are about 110 detainees in Guantanamo so far. Things are going reportedly well as told to Salinas by officials at Guantanamo. When asked about when flights with new detainees arrive at the prison, Salinas was told that it was top secret. In fact, the media is asked to shut their equipment off and to be indoors when a flight touches down in Guantanamo. In an interesting side note, Salinas reports that one of the common meals served at this base is wild hogs, which are common on the island. Eating pork is well known to be against Muslim teaching. However, it is not confirmed yet whether it is being served to the 110 detainees there.

Movie review

Orange County

By Maria Ochoa
Free Lance Writer

MTV Films is notorious for catering to the youth of America. Its movies often focus on prepubescent toilet humor and wild stereotypical "college" antics coupled with a sickening attempt at personal discovery. These are usually a result of the "desperation" of adolescence or sudden overwhelming life changes. *Orange County* takes a stab at all of the above, but only manages a paltry flesh wound. The movie deals with a young college-bound overachieving slacker Shaun Brumder (Colin Hanks) who finds his carefree lifestyle lacking following the untimely death of his best friend. As he begins to reevaluate his life's path and cope with his loss, he is inspired to become a writer thanks to Marcus Skinner's "Straight Jacket" a book written by a Stanford professor (Kevin Kline). His dream to attend Stanford and write seems thwarted by his unstable family, inept college advisor, and everyone else he knows. Hanks' character

aided by junkie brother Jack Black sets out to prove he is Stanford material. This is where the laughs are supposed to be, yet only a pointless half hearted attempt at self-discovery happens. I believe the movie aims for a Wizard of Oz theme but instead of Dorothy clicking her heels thrice, we end up with a motto that reads "stay mediocre".

Colin Hanks, son of Tom Hanks, and Jack Black of the Tenacious D headline the movie, which includes a comedic who's who of cameos. Despite appearances by Chevy Chase, Harold Ramis of Ghostbusters fame, Lily Tomlin, and John Lithgow, the movie remains devoid of any moments of true comedic genius. Black and Hanks are not to blame. Both actors put in some genuine performances considering horrible circumstances including the unusually stale script, even in a genre known for lack of insight and creativity. Bottom line, wait for the video. If you must spend ten bucks watch Lord of the Rings again.

Rated PG-13 for crude humor profanity and drug references.

Gossip Column

From the Lips of Ms. M. Belle Isher

**Pierce Brosnan is set to film another flick
His fifth turn as Bond, James Bond:
Martinis shaken not stirred, always getting the chick**

**Robert Downey Jr. is negotiating a new role
About a large heist in 70's New York.
Downey is no stranger to crime, least he never stole.**

Funnyman, Chris Rock is directing his first work
A film called Head of State which he'll also star in
Better luck with this film, as opposed to his last blurb.

Jennifer Aniston was in a minor accident awhile ago
Driving her jaguar through big, bad Hollywood
She said no to emergency help not hurt terribly though.

Charlize Theron sold herself to a businessman as a date
Relax, it's all for South African Children's Charity Project
How many grands does it take to meet this beautiful star? Thirty-eight.

Late night host, Conan O'Brien is now a married man
He married some woman, some ad executive
Kudos, mazel tov, congrats from this fan.

Also congrats to Uma Thurman & Ethan Hawke
Baby number two has arrived, no word on its sex.
Let's hope soon it all comes out and they'll talk.



Book Review

Nicholas Sparks' *A Walk in the Water*

By Laarni Paras
Layout Editor

Nicholas Sparks, author of the book *Mosses*, tells the romantic story of innocent love with A Walk to Remember. Sparks taps into the reader's love for WB dramas and teen fiction with his simple, the-mill dialogue and misplaced dance sequence.

The story takes place in 1958 in Bau Landon Carter is a popular high school senior Sullivan, the daughter of a widowed, Baptist mother wears the same brown cardigan and is always late. The two characters come together when they share a dramatic moment behind a plain-Jane facade and learns lessons that will

A Walk to Remember is easy to read. A by the narrator's use of diction, heavily doused of spirituality. Although some may think the gettable instances that will tug at your heart or a nearby sleeve. No ovulating reader will

Look for the film version of this book (starring Mandy Moore (who made her big screen debut in *The Hot Chick*), and directed by Peter Segal (*West* (ABC's "Once and Again") and directed by *Planner*)).



Review Walk to Remember

Message in a Bottle, writes another roman-
Remember. In this book, Sparks satisfies
ticks without the use of vampires, run-of-
quences.

Beaufort, North Carolina. The narrator,
senior and student body president. Jamie
that minister, carries her Bible everywhere,
ways willing to help others. The two char-
ma class. Landon looks beyond Jamie's
will forever change his life.

A story peppered with humor provided
used with endearing moments and a dash
the plot predictable, look for many unfor-
at and make you reach for that tissue box,
will leave this book with a dry eye.

ook on January 25, 2002, starring singer
but in the "Princess Diaries") and Shane
eted by Adam Shankman ("The Wedding

Movie Review Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

Laarni Paras
Layout Editor

As part one of the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy, "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" introduces us to the nine characters that make up the Fellowship and their beginning adventures. The almost three-hour movie was filmed in New Zealand, beautifully capturing the make-believe lands. The actors portray their characters well and convincingly. Elijah Wood plays the main character Frodo, speaking with a wispy voice and giving a good amount of innocence to the hobbit. And Sir Ian McKellen plays Frodo's wise friend and wizard, Gandalf, with a mature demeanor and a healthy use of furrowing eyebrows.

The action of the movie was victorious. The battles, the endless journeys and the cliffhangers will definitely keep you alert. The visual effects are flawless: you'll believe the numerous soldiers and monsters are actually there. The costumes are beautiful – from the flowing dresses of the female characters to the shining armor of mithril (an unpiercable metal created by the author). And the make-up artists provide enough goop and blood to wince at and enough hair extensions and wigs to fit each character.

The film was undoubtedly made with great effort, but the plot may be found lacking, considering that the film has two more successors. To enjoy this movie fully, one must remember that "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" is only part one of three. The movie, as its own whole, is a pretty good one. It will please the fantasy lovers, both readers of the Tolkien's novels and those who have yet to turn a page, and many will flock to the following sequels. However, for those looking for a non-committal movie, or simply for a something less than three hours, you may want to look elsewhere.

Babblin' Boo Frenzy

By Geovanna Henao
Editor in Chief

She is simply adorable with her big eyes, pony-tails and giggle, not to mention her sweet baby-talk. Babblin' Boo won many hearts in "Monsters, Inc" where she goes into the city of monsters. When pressing her stomach she giggles, babbles and sings. If her teddy Mikey is taken away from her she screams but giggles when he is put back.

This cute doll is out of stock everywhere. Retailers are charging between \$25 to \$35 dollars for her. Babblin' Boo first surprised everyone during the Thanksgiving holiday. She sold out quickly. Many wanted to wait closer to Christmas time to buy her but they soon discovered this would be a hard task. They could not find her anywhere. They searched from Toys 'R Us to KB Toys and many other stores and still many did not have luck. The search then began on the internet but still many had to wait 7-8 weeks for delivery. Then auctions became an option. Many are willing to pay up to \$75.00.

Many hearts remain full of disappointment while others are full of happiness since they were able to attain Babblin' Boo. The holiday season may be over, but many are still in search of this adorable babblin' doll.



Disney.com

Medieval Studies Expert: Dr. Matthew Brosamer

By Dayna Gulino
Free Lance Writer

The greatest advantage in attending a college like Mount St. Mary's is the personal attention each student receives from their professors. They know our names and care about our scholastic progress, which allows for a relationship of mutual respect to develop. But, try as we may, it is impossible to know everyone in this relatively small community.

With this in mind, I endeavored to discover a little more about The Mount's newest English Department faculty member, Dr. Matthew Brosamer.

Hailing from Anchorage, Alaska, Dr. Brosamer pursued undergraduate studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Surprisingly, literature was farthest from his initial plan: "Well, I originally went there intending to be a research biologist, and then I discovered how much work that would involve..." During his first year at Georgetown, Dr. Brosamer was introduced to the works of Chaucer and immediately knew that Medieval Studies would prove to be his true calling: "I thought I'd get the liberal arts requirement out of the way from the very beginning, so I took a class on The Canterbury Tales and I was sold. That was it." Even though his professor at Georgetown was disenchanted

with teaching, and rather eccentric, Dr. Brosamer was able to appreciate the material: "...if Chaucer sounds good even from this old coot, then I'm sold."

For the vast majority, Chaucer, and medieval literature as a whole, is not the most engaging topic, but Dr. Brosamer is fascinated by the period's "[incorporation] of theological ideas into literature." Medieval literature integrates two of Dr. Brosamer's interests: "I've always been interested in theology, and I find it extremely compelling when a master poet turns theology into literary art."

This is not to say that literature produced after the Middle Ages is less valid, but it lacks a certain theological quality that fuels Dr. Brosamer's interest: "Post-medieval literature has its beauties and high points, but I find that it either tends to ignore theological issues or present them in a sectarian or polemical manner. In the Middle Ages there was a level of confidence with the unity of Christendom that allowed a refreshing freedom in theological speculation, and I find the reflection of this freedom in the literature of the period particularly engaging." This passion for Medieval literature prompted Dr. Brosamer to pursue a doctorate in the subject.

After an unsatisfying year at The Medieval Institute at Notre

Dame, Dr. Brosamer headed west to the University of California, Los Angeles in order to complete his doctoral work. He continued on at UCLA for three years as a guest lecturer before coming to the Mount. Upon his arrival to our humble campus, Dr. Brosamer was amazed: "The first thing I liked was the view...I got here, got out of my car and just stood there for about fifteen minutes."

Dr. Brosamer's appreciation for Mount St. Mary's involves far more than the magnificent view; he finds the emphasis on "personal undergraduate education" very healthy. The ability to track his students' progress, which is a difficult task at other institutions, is an integral part of Dr. Brosamer's teaching style. He also enjoys having repeat students in his classes: "I taught here in the Weekend College for a couple semesters before this one and I had repeat students, which I think is terrific. You can build on previous work."

On a more personal level, Dr. Brosamer considers his family the greatest accomplishment of his life: "My wife and I have a three month old son. That's something that donkeys can do, but it's really large in my life right now. It's certainly my greatest accomplishment." Outside of class, Dr. Brosamer enjoys reading and devotes "more attention than

[his] wife would like" to a book collection: "I like, not just literature, but the books that they come in as works of printing art."

Dr. Brosamer's time is not completely consumed by scholarly pursuits. He takes advantage of the beautiful California weather and scenery: "I used to race, road race bicycles, like Lance Armstrong, although I wasn't quite as good as he is. I like to get out on the road...along the coast."

As an expert of Medieval Studies and English Literature, I found it odd that Dr. Brosamer has never visited Europe, but he was quick to reply that, "the Middle Ages aren't there anymore. They're just as much here as they are there..." Nevertheless, he would one day like to visit Rome because it embodies the majority of things that interest him at this point.

Dr. Brosamer is a valued addition to the English Dept. His love of teaching, and appreciation of the Mount trickles down into the classroom environment: "I really like what I do...I know a lot of people who don't do what they love, and they are basically happy, but I love what I do. It makes me happy." He expects the best from his students, and in return, dedicates himself fully to their education, which is the most important characteristic of an effective and engaging teacher.

Making a Difference!

The Mounts Student Ambassador Program

By Melissa Romero
Free Lance Writer

As a high school student, do you remember feeling confused and having many questions regarding your college search and application process? Did it make a big difference to have someone take the time to help you? If you did not have someone to help you, don't you wish that someone had? If your reply was "yes" to any of these questions, consider becoming a student ambassador! Becoming a Student Ambassador will give you an opportunity to encourage youth to further their education.

Introduced in 1991, the Student Ambassador Program is one of the Mount's

community/high school partnership programs led by Bernadette Roberts, Program director and Veronica Martinez, Program Coordinator. The Ambassadors motivate thousands of high school students to complete high school and aspire to a college education. The Student Ambassadors work with high school students, and in some cases their parents. They answer questions concerning college application process, preparation for college, college life, financial aid and also provide assistance to the college counselors. Each Ambassador is assigned to a high school or site and is expected to work on a weekly basis. The Ambassador program is funded through grants by organizations that believe in the

power of education. A key to the effectiveness of the program is the aspect of peer counseling and role modeling. Many of our Mount students come from backgrounds similar to those of the individuals and/or communities they assist. When we are able, we send the Ambassador back to the high school from which she graduated. Thus, the Ambassadors' very presence in the counseling office says, "If I can do it, so can you!"

We will be recruiting for the 2002-2003 team in March. If you are interested in learning more about the Student Ambassador Program, please contact Rosa Aguilar, Chalon Manager at (310) 954-4106 or Andrea Sarabia, Doheny Manager at (213) 447-2572.

Sea of Red Brings Flood of Green

By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

For those who were wondering what all those people in red pants, shirts, jackets, hats and, yes, even fanny packs were doing traipsing around Los Angeles recently, they were fresh-from-the-cornfields-of-Nebraska Husker fans who came to L.A. to watch the pride and joy of their home state play in the eighty-eighth annual Rose Bowl. During the influx of Nebraskans to Pasadena and other local areas, hotels were filled to 90% capacity and a thrilling \$200 million was infused into the Southern California economy. For local businesses disheartened from a less-than-remarkable holiday shopping season, the easy spending of the Nebraskan dollar was a welcomed offering. From Pasadena to Santa Monica restaurants, shops, museums, theaters, shopping malls, piers and beaches were well-stocked with Husker fans.

Despite their dramatic entrance, Nebraska was swept away in the University of Miami's Hurricane as the Husker's were defeated 37 to 14 during their thirty-third appearance in a bowl game. The Rose Bowl, which

has a total capacity of seating 100,092 fans, was considered sold-out with 93,781 (94%) seats filled, seventy percent of which contained Nebraska fans. The crowd marked the largest ever to attend a Nebraska game; quite a feat, considering Lincoln, NE is the third-largest city in the state when there's a Nebraska home game.

A thundering "Go big red! Go big red!" could be heard throughout Rose Bowl Stadium as the faithful Nebraska fans stayed through the end. Unusual, considering most Angelenos would have rushed to the parking lot to beat the onslaught of traffic sometime during the middle of the fourth quarter. As the last of the Cornhusker fans trickled back to Nebraska the following week, area businesses were cheering them as winners in their own right considering the tourism revenue they brought with them had given a positive jolt to Southern California's economy. Good bye, Nebraska! Come again soon!



Photo Courtesy of Univ. of Nebraska

Did You Know...

MLB- Major League Baseball

Los Angeles Dodgers brought back pitcher Hideo Nomo.

Minnesota Twins are still waiting to be bought.

Anaheim Angels are excited about two new pitchers and new uniforms.

NBA-National Basketball Association

Michael Jordan from the Washington Wizards is to divorce wife of 12 years.

Shaquille O'Neal was suspended for three games after punching Bulls player Brad Miller during the game on Saturday, January 12, 2002. Will he lose it again?

Orlando Magic owner likely to sell the team and move its location.

NFL-National Football League

Head Coach Tony Dungy says goodbye to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, while Bill Parcells says hello.

Steve Spurrier is welcomed as head coach of the Washington Redskins for a five year, \$25 million dollar contract, making him the highest paid coach in the NFL, while they bid farewell to Marty Schottenheimer.

NFL SCHEDULE

Conference Championships

Sunday, January 27, 2002

NFC-

Philadelphia Eagles

vs

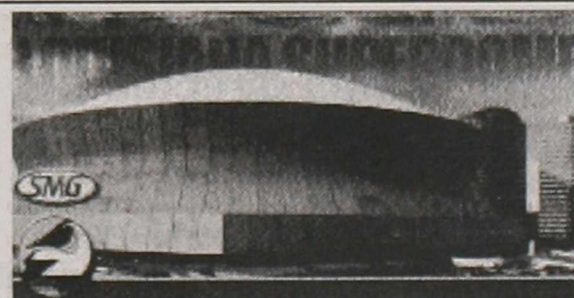
St. Louis Rams

AFC-

New England Patriots

at

Pittsburgh Steelers



nfl.com

Superbowl XXXVI held at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans will be on February 3, 2002 on FOX, Channel 11, at 6pm ET.

January/February Events

Academy/UCLA Documentary Series

January 29, 2002 at 7:30pm, at the James Bridges Theater at UCLA.

"The Concert" (directed by Robert Dornhelm; produced by Bram Roos.)

"Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport" (directed by Mark Jonathan Harris; produced by Deborah Oppenheimer)

Academy Award Winner!

The Museum of Contemporary Art

MOCA is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 5 pm and Thursday from 11am to 8pm. General Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students with I.D. and seniors (65+), and free for children under 12. Admission is free to all every Thursday from 5pm to 8pm. For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs and special events, call 213-626-6222 or access MOCA on the web at moca.org.

Parkinson's Resource Organization

Fundraiser "A Live Tribute to the Divas" will be on Sunday, February 17, 2002, emceed by Actor and Director, Stephen Macht. It will be held in The Mediterranean Room at the Fabulous Riviera Resort and Racquet Club in Palm Springs, CA. For more information please call toll free at 1-877-775-4111.

Engadine productions Presents The World Premiere of Ben Pleasants' Drama directed by Denise Gillman

"Contentious Minds: The Mary McCarthy/Lillian Hellman Affair" opens at the Lillian Theater on Friday, February 1, 2002.

Lillian Theater is located at 6322 Santa Monica Blvd.

All tickets are \$15.00. For reservations please call Tiffany Box Office at (310)289-2999.

The MSMC Chalon ASB presents the Spring Formal...

Wonderful Tonight

Date: Friday, February 22, 2002

Location: The Castaway in Burbank

Cost: \$45.00/person (cash only)

The ticket price includes hors d'oeuvres reception, dinner, unlimited soft drink bar, valet parking, and a keepsake.

Tickets will be on sale beginning Tuesday, January 22, 2002. They can be purchased in the Student Activities and Commuter Services office (1st Floor, Humanities).

Reminder:

Wednesday, January 30, 2002 is the last day to Register Late, Add, Drop and Declare and Audit.

On February 13, 2002, Ash Wednesday, in Mary Chapel, there will a prayer service and distribution of ashes at 7:30AM, 7:30PM and a mass and distribution of ashes at noon.

Urban Interns

Are you interested in Volunteering?

Do you want to get involved in the Los Angeles Community?

Come and visit the center for Urban Partnership to learn about great opportunities! We are located in Building One at the Doheny Campus, and Brady Patio at the Chalon Campus. You can reach us at (310) 477-2548 or (310) 954-4079.

Do you love to write?

Do you want to be part of a great team?

Do you want to add to your Resume?

Join the Oracle!

If you are interested, please contact Geovanna Henao, the Editor In Chief at (310) 954-4469 or stop by the Oracle Office located in the Brady Patio.



February 22, 2002

12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049
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Volume 8
Number 3

World Peace Ceremony Sponsored by Buddhists

By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

At this very moment the United States, supported by ally nations, has waged a war against terrorism. Separately from this, there is constant fighting in the Middle East between Israel and Palestine. Global hatred and intolerance abounds. Wouldn't it be nice if just for one day, people of different cultures, religions, and backgrounds of all types could gather together in harmony? Not in some sort of flower child revivalist assembly or a recreation of Woodstock, but in a sincere attempt to give a nod of acknowledgement to people who are different from us as a reminder that we are all capable of tolerance and peace. There is perhaps no greater a time when such a concept is needed as the immediate present.

The Buddhists, widely known for their peaceful ways of life and selfless practices, were the initiators of just such a day. The 2002 Prayer for World Peace Ceremony was held at the Hsi Lai (pronounced "she lie") Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights, California on Saturday, February 2, 2002. (The temple is located about 37 miles east of the Chalon campus, and 22 miles east of Doheny and visitors are welcome!) The event was a gathering of representatives from various major religions in response to the call for peace.

Representing their respective faiths were the following members of the Los Angeles religious community: Rev. Alexei Smith, pastor of St. Andrew Russian Greek Catholic church and also St. Paul Greek Melkite church in El Segundo

who also serves as Director of the Archdiocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs; Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak of Whittier's Temple Beth Shalom; Rev. Leonard Jackson of the First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church; the Chinmaya Mission of Los Angeles represented Hinduism; Dr. Muzzami Siddiqi of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California; Bishop Douglas Rozsa of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; and Abbot Hui Chuan of the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple. Of joint concern for all is to continue to work for peace and justice. The



gathering was a seamless example of how various faith communities can work together, if only on a local level, to promote common goals, philosophies, and issues which affect the world as a whole.

Each faith's representative said a prayer for peace in their religion's customary way. Rev. Alexei with clasped hands and bowed head prayed for peace and unity. Rabbi Beliak, greeting the crowd with "Shalom" (meaning "peace" in Hebrew), told an anecdotal story called "Colors"

about acceptance and love. Dr. Siddiqi gave a speech condemning the acts of September 11 on behalf of the Muslim community and further emphasized the need for peace. Rev. Jackson quoted scripture, Bishop Rozsa read briefly from the Book of Mormon, and Abbot Hui Chuan led a Buddhist prayer.

The event also featured a variety of musical guests representing various faiths and cultures which provided for an especially interesting cultural experience. The International Children's Choir of Long Beach, with each child wearing the tradition dress of at least 25 countries and displaying a pageant-like sash to identify them, closed the ceremony with several verses of "It's A Small World" and led a procession out of the temple for a ceremonial balloon release.

As the balloons soared high into the air, they took along with them the prayers and hopes for peace shared by all religions of the greater Los Angeles area which the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple brought together. No more noble a cause may be found; may this ceremony continue for years to come until its prayers for worldwide peace have been answered.

The Hsi Lai temple is really a site to behold, being the largest Buddhist temple in California. Visitors are always welcome. Take a free guided tour of the temple and surrounding grounds, dine on a vegetarian lunch, walk through the museum of ancient Chinese and Buddhist artifacts, visit the gift shop, meditate throughout the picturesque grounds and fountain areas, and enjoy the peaceful serenity of the Buddhist way of life. Find out more at: <http://www.hsilai.org>

Trial of Slobodan Milosevic: The new Nuremberg

By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

Former Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic is the first head of state to stand trial for crimes against humanity. Milosevic is accused of planning to create an ethnically pure "Greater Serbia" out of the destruction of Yugoslavia. Prosecutors point out the Srebrenica massacre, Sarajevo and the Bosnian camps.

In Srebrenica, Serbs are accused of murdering 8,000 Muslim men and boys. Prosecutors showed pictures of mass graves and a corpse who is blindfolded and bound. Prosecutor Geoffrey Nice also spoke of the 43-month siege of Sarajevo, the longest 20th-century siege in Europe, when snipers' targets included children, funeral processions and street markets. Videos were shown of

emaciated prisoners held back by barbed wire at the Trnopolje detention camp in northwest Bosnia. It is said that more than 7,000 Bosnian Muslims, Croats and other non-Serbs were held in terrible conditions at like camps in May-August 1992. Prisoners were also killed or tortured.

After Nato was forced to bomb Yugoslavia, a plan against Kosovo Albanian civilians went into effect. Fellow prosecutor Dirk Ryneveld said, "Serb forces went from hamlet to hamlet, village to village, town to town, burning, murdering, raping, looting and destroying property in their path," Ryneveld said. By June, more than 800,000 Albanians fled into neighboring states. Ryneveld also gave the court gruesome accounts where women were raped in front of their families, children were burned alive, men shot and many people were beaten and robbed.

After nine hours in which the prosecution

outlined the 66-count case against the former Yugoslav leader, Milosevic was given the chance to rebuttal. "This tribunal does not have the right to try me because it has not been established lawfully," Milosevic answered. He added, "We cannot speak of a fair or equitable trial here, the prosecutor is not only biased but has already publicized my judgment." Prosecutors have said publicly that Milosevic is deserving of life imprisonment. "From your prosecutors' office a media campaign has been orchestrated as a parallel lynching," Milosevic told the judge. But a judge of the tribunal answered him, "These matters have all been dealt with and your views about the tribunal are irrelevant as far as these proceedings are concerned." Thus, this International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague will continue.

A Fair Trial

By Jenny Kane
Staff Writer

On Wednesday February 6, 2002 at 7:00 PM in the art gallery at Chalon, a philosophy lecture was held. Dr. Alison Renteln was the speaker, discussing "The Cultural Defense." There were ninety audience members in attendance.

An extremely interesting outlook on the cultural implications, in respect to law, was presented in a well-organized format. Dr. Renteln used hand-outs, examples, video presentation, questions, and discussion. She discussed that in such a pluralistic society as ours, it is important to maintain such an open-minded view of justice and equality, incorporating as many possibilities in defense in order to better balance the currently biased justice system. Everyday, in every interaction, in every court case, human perception of certain events and experiences is already an ever-present source of either insight or unavoidable distortion or both. So it seems only fair to take Dr. Renteln's ideas into consideration. Each feasibly correlating factor in court cases should be allowed in order to remain consistent across the board. The concept of a fair trial might need to be restructured to allow for more relative information, to force a rigid judicial system to take a

second look at certain cases which demand more examination into conflicting sets of beliefs and laws. Take a second look. Human experience is not black and white; neither should the law. Review a position and take other interpretations into account. Analyze biases. Rethink.

It is now my turn to take a second look at an experience in order to more objectively analyze what happened. What personal biases and expectations helped cloud my interpretation of the event? In other words, why did I see her averted glances and lack of meaningful responses as a personal reflection on myself? In further discussion upon the progression of the conversation and the interaction between Dr. Renteln and myself, I have begun to see our exchange in a much different light. I approached this person with the lingering image of her as an authority figure, an expert in her field of study. As a result, I saw myself as somewhat inferior, although not to say unknowledgeable. I personally observed the disparity in our choice of apparel, attaching meaning to this subtlety where there might actually have been none. Before our conversation even began, I had laid out a course for it collapse. I saw each faint sign of the barrier I built between us and magnified it to the size of the Great Divide. Of course, after such mental preparation on my part, there would be extreme

difficulties in formulating any sort of cohesive conversation. Can I really blame this other person for my biases, for the conclusions I prematurely drew, or for the emotional response I found myself enduring? No, I cannot. I can note her lack of eye contact and fidgeting, but I cannot attach an assumption as to her motives or feelings.

In the most fundamental sense, this is exactly what Dr. Renteln was describing. We, as a society, cannot justifiably allow our perceptions and possibly misconstrued interpretations of events to enter into the prosecution of others. In order to grant an individual his or her full right to a fair trial, personal biases must be analyzed, understood and left at the door. We must allow for the fact that a number of factors may have contributed to an event, whether that be a simple conversation or an act of murder. It comes down to the simple questions of what is happening (simply describe the facts) and why it is happening (other contributing factors, not your opinion)? In asking myself to rethink my interaction with Dr. Renteln, I have come to a better understanding of the judgments I make, without proper authority. I control how I see a situation; I control my emotions in reaction. Fairness lies in open-minded awareness.

THE ORACLE

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Elena Barnes

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The Oracle is a non-profit publication created by the students of Mount Saint Mary's College. Letters to the Editor are strongly encouraged. All letters should be accompanied by full name and signature and may be edited for clarity and brevity. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Please direct all correspondence to The Oracle at 12001 Chalon Road, Box 52, Los Angeles, CA 90049 or via e-mail to oracle@msmc.la.edu. The telephone number is (310) 954-4083. Advertisements, commentaries, columns and political cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the paper, the college or the writer. Editorials are the opinions of the majority of the editorial staff. The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

The Meaning Behind Our Motto

By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

The Oracle has adopted a new motto for the newspaper: "Keeping The Mount informed...from campus to campus." The arrival at this decision spanned several weeks of pondering and deliberation by The Oracle editors. The intent was to capture the purpose of The Oracle in a concise statement that would appear in the masthead. While making reference to the Mount communities at both Doheny and Chalon, it also needed to be different from the motto of the College itself: "Two Campuses, One Mission."

It is our hope that The Oracle's motto is self-explanatory in its mission; that being, purely and simply to keep The Mount informed of news and current events, goings-on around the Mount campuses, and other issues of student interest. It was our hope and intent to envelope both the Chalon and Doheny campuses in its acknowledgement of both; The Mount functions as a single unit with both campuses intertwined and co-dependent and our motto was to reflect such.

In the coming years as Oracle staff members are elected, re-elected, and freelance writers' work continues to grace the pages of our student-run publication, we hope that The Oracle's motto will serve as a timeless reminder of the intent and purpose of the newspaper serving Mount St. Mary's College.

-The Editors

A Thank You Note From A Blood-Donor Recipient

Mitzie Vitela
Free Lance Writer

Life-inspiring cliché's never meant much to me. Yes, we all appreciate the small things in life-we all live life to the fullest-we treat others as we would like to be treated-we donate blood to those in need. Cliché's we all know exist to make life seem worth a little more something important. I lived my life saying those cliché's, but I never truly understood, or appreciated, what they meant to me until I got sick. When you loose your health you begin to see life in a whole other light.

After the September 11th attacks in New York, life seemed a little more important. I watched the news as people flocked to the hospitals, waited hours out of their busy lives in line, and donated blood. Those people understanding something precious about life that I had yet to experience. Those people wanting to give blood, the only thing they must feel they could do to help, to those in need. Cliché: help others in need, a cliché we all sometimes do not do.

Then I got sick. My health (which was always perfect) is one thing I have treasured. Who can study with a cold? Go party with a headache? Our health is one luxury our youth has made expandable for us to consider important.

I was rushed to the hospital by to ambulance because I was loosing too much blood. Amid my flu, my blood stopped clotting, making me bleed non-stop. The paramedics had try three times to find my blood pressure because it had gotten to low. I had no blood- I could not breath- I was dying.

As I lay in the emergency room, undergoing test after tetfrom the doctor's, I began to re-think those cliché's. I did not want to die. I did want to live a full life. I do want to help others in this world as best as

my abilities would allow. I want to live, even when my body feels it wants to stop. One doctor came in as I laid in my bed struggling to breath. She told me that my blood levels were dangerously low. I would need a blood transfusion as soon as possible. I was moved to the intensive care ward. C.A.T. Scans were performed in my head (thankfully I did not bleed in my head) and was prepared to receive blood.

A nurse struggled to find a vein in my arm (my arms had been injected more than ten times by then so finding a spot was really hard-and painfully). This took twenty minutes-the longest twenty minutes of my life. Finally she found a vein, brought in a complicated and intimidating looking machine, grabbed the bag of blood and I watched as it began to flow into my arm. The nurse stepped out of the leaving me alone to watch the bag of blood. The bag reading "volunteer donor" in its label. Someone took the time out of their busy life, had a painful needle voluntarily injected in them, give their own blood, for someone else to live. Did they appreciate life that much to voluntarily go through pain to give life to another person? The donor understood something I never had before. The little we do to help can change a person's life.

I am still alive because a person I probably will never meet gave me their blood to live. Life is precious-so fragile-now I understand. Unfortunately, that bag of blood was not enough for me. I had to have five blood transfusions. Five bags of someone else's blood flowing in me-five people I now owe my life to. What can I say to those people if I ever came face to face with them? I think I would say: Thank you. Though my life may seem small and simple, it is a life I treasure. I get to live becuae of you. I never understood why people voluntarily gave

blood when it involves a painful needle on their behalf-but now I do. I am still breathing-My parents are no longer crying as they see me lie in my hospital bed- I can go home-wald to my own bed-do my homework-go to class-love my family one more day becuae you have given me your blood. One thank you will never be enough. God bless you-you are my hero.

So why are lifeinspiring cliché's important to me now? Because life seems all that more important to me. I have never faced death-I have never been in an ambulance-I have never seem my parents cry painful tears for me before- I have never been given blood before. Experiences we all live through-the joyous, bitter, sorrow, etc., -are one's we live through to learn to appreciate life a little better. I do not want to die. I will not die because people in this world gave me their blood to live. Cliché's have given me a way to appreciate everything that has happened to me.

I write a thank you note to those that have donated blood. Though I will never know whose blood flows through my veins-I feel that perhaps they may never read this-but students at MSMC will-students that have donated blood and will not have a chance to know what a great thing they have done. You have saved a life. My life. And for that you cannot be thanked enough. Your gift is so very appreciated. You are why I am still here. Donate blood. Save someone's life. So that they can appreciate those cliches one more day. Give life to someone that will need it. And in doing so, you too will perhaps understand those cliches a little better too.

Life is all about appreciating through our acquired. And this experience is one experience you will never regret. One experience that, at the end, will have someone breathing one more day.

President Vicente Fox in La Habana, Cuba

By Yared Salgado
Entertainment Editor

On Sunday, February 3, 2002, the president of Mexico, Vicente Fox, arrived at La Habana, Cuba to meet with Fidel Castro. Mexico has been the only Latin American country that has maintained diplomatic relations with Cuba since the revolution of 1959. Since this year the rest of the regions cut any type of relation with Cuba. Mexico is the sixth country after Spain and Canada to have foreign trade with Cuba.

The visit was 24-hours and the main goal for Fox was to rebuild the strong historical connection with both Mexico and Cuba. Fox believed that the relations between both was slowly dying away since the last visit of the Mexican president, Carlos Salinas in 1994.

"This trip is very important for us, because it is our goal to strengthen our relations with Cuba", Fox mentioned after getting off the airplane.

With this visit, Fox believed that with both Castro and himself there could be a positive impulse on foreign and commercial trade. One of Mexico's greatest interest is to sell their petroleum to Cuba. After a 24hour discussion and a revision of both commercial and or foreign trade, Cuba and Mexico will reestablish their historical connections.

By Geovanna Henao
Editor In Chief

Arnold Schwarzenegger is one of the elite actors in Hollywood today. A man, who started an acting career only in dreams, now knows it is very real. At 15-years-old, Schwarzenegger made up his mind to come to America to be a movie star. He admired the freeways, bridges and glamour that Hollywood movies portrayed. He knew that it was a rarity to make a dream a reality. However, he was not hesitant to find a way from Austria to America. He picked up bodybuilding because he knew it was the only way out of his country. At an interview in the Four Seasons Hotel on January 26, 2002, he stated, "it was the sport to get me to America. I killed myself five hours a week. I knew that was my ticket to America." He then became a World Championship Builder, a title he became notorious for accomplishing. Five months after arriving in this country, as he got off a boat, he was asked to play the part of Hercules in an upcoming movie. Among laughter, he stated that all he could think was about how amazing it was that he not only got to America but that he was about to embark on a journey to accomplish his dreams. He said it was an unbelievable experience.

Schwarzenegger not only prides himself in his acting. He is also a family man and devoted individual. Despite his busy schedule, he still finds time for his family and others. Although he does not allow his children to watch his movies (since his movies are not PG-13), he states that they are very proud of him. He also hopes to make more PG-13 movies in order to give his children the satisfaction of seeing him on big screen. He also helps powerless children. He is very active in the Special Olympics. He states, "I feel like I should fight for them." One of his biggest projects of the

moment is enlarging an already successful after school program. He believes

that the time of danger for many children fall between the hours of 3 to 6pm, therefore, he strongly feels that they should have a recreational and educational place to go. He believes that these types of programs can help prevent teenage pregnancy, gangs and drug abuse. However, he sadly states that there is a lack of money available for these programs. One of the most fascinating things for Schwarzenegger is education. Schwarzenegger also advised, "don't sit there enjoying victory. That is just a stepping stone. Be hungry! It makes life more interesting." When asked what keeps him hungry, he replied, "new things. For example, going to South Africa promoting the Special Olympics and carrying the Flame of Hope with Nelson Mandela."

Schwarzeneggers newest film is "Collateral Damage." It is about damage to innocent people and a devoted firefighter who seeks revenge. He says that despite the events of September 11, the movie has never been altered. He states, "we didn't feel anything should be changed." However, he also added that the one thing he would have changed is the ending where a TV reporter states, "this is the world's largest collateral damage" because that today is not accurate. He emphasized, "the only thing I would have removed was that!" When asked why they felt it was the appropriate time to release the film, he commented that it was not him. "It doesn't matter what I feel. It's what people want." The movie was tested in November and the studio felt that it would be okay to release the movie on February 8, 2002. For now Schwarzenegger is looking forward to filming Terminator 3, which he will start shooting on April 15th and True Lies 2. This latter film he plans to let his kids watch.

Movies- New Releases for February:

Hart's War
When We Were Soldiers
Iris
John Q
Return To Never Land
Dragonfly
Queen of the Damned

Check your local listings for dates and times.

Celebrity

February 22

- * Drew Barrymore
- * James Russell

February 23

- * Bobby Bonilla
- * Frasier

February 24

- * Edward James Olmos
- * Liberman

From the lips of Miss M. Belle Isher

All supermodels have their day in court, or so it would seem as Naomi Campbell is in a legal scuffle with The Daily Mirror, a British tabloid paper. She's upset over an article published, "Naomi: I am a drug addict." However, she does admit that she will always be a drug addict even though she's recovered. Now she claims they made a racist remark about her. The other side finds the accusation of racism "disgusting." Paging, Johnny Cochran.

Friends are truly priceless. Well, most of 'em. Cast of "Friends" have signed on for a 9th and final season. The salary of each cast member is a cool million for every episode they make. Still not up to par with Kelsey Grammar's \$1.6 million per episode, but a million still sounds good. So, it will be interesting to see what will happen next season with Phoebe, Joey, Rachel, Ross, Monica and Chandler. Should be good, so stay tuned.

Paul McCartney was asked by Mojo magazine who his ultimate hero was said, "I've got a few heroes, but if I really have to plump for one, well howsabouts John?" Of his fellow Beatle, John Lennon, he said, "What I admire in him was massive talent, great wit, courage and humor. He influenced me, very much so." Aww, how cute the Beatles are!!

Of Drew Barrymore and Tom Green, a publicist for Tom Green swears that the divorce is not a prank or for the purpose of being vague as they had been about announcing their marriage. Barrymore said in a statement, "Yes, it is true we decided to part. He has always been a great friend and that won't change." Tom released a statement in which he said, "Drew is a wonderful woman. I love her very much. I wish our marriage could have worked out. I wish her much happiness," This is a second marriage, and divorce, for Barrymore whose previous marriage was to Jeremy Thomas in 1994.

Gosford Park Review

By Maria Ochoa
Free Lance Writer

In the tradition of Agatha Christie and the game Clue!, Director Robert Altman's Gosford Park proves a witty and well directed "who-dunit". The story unfolds during a gathering of British elite at the home of Sir William and Lady Sylvia McCordle. It involves sex, lies, secrets, and murder are rolled into an intriguing mystery riddled with biting comedy and numerous themes. The movie features excellent casting including a snobby but penniless Countess Trentham (Maggie Smith) and Henry Denton, a young valet with a few secrets (Ryan Phillippe). Phillippe and wickedly satirical Smith give memorable performances. When a wealthy but hated host throws a get together for people that can't stand him it proves deadly. The film gives insightful glimpses into the lives and hardships of servants as well as into the misery and absurdity of elitism. The movie gives us glimpses into the lives of various characters focusing on their past and present romances and rivalries.

For all its devilish comedy the film is not without problems. First off, its many characters make it difficult to settle into, this also thwarts any "in-depth" look at any particular persona. The British accents take some getting used to, but all-in-all Gosford Park is entertaining and sure to delight a wide spectrum of audiences. Gosford Park provides a little something for all. I dare you to unravel the mystery and mayhem before the end, and even if you fail you'll still have a good laugh.

Rated R for violence, sexuality, and mature themes.

Birthdays

February 25

- * George Harrison
- * Sally Jesse Raphael

February 27

- * John Steinbeck
- * Ralph Nadar
- * Elizabeth Taylor
- * Bill Clinton

"Do You Think While You Eat?"

By Jenny Kane
Staff Writer

In Buddhist tradition, mindfulness of food is taught in the following manner: one must first learn to engage in thoughtful reflection from the beginning of a meal to its end. Such reflections should focus on the interconnection of the food being eaten to all of those people and things which brought it to its current position. Sometimes the convenience and speed which most restaurants and fast food chains cater to in American society serve to distract us from taking the time to think about how the food was prepared, how the ingredients got to the store, who drove the truck, who grew and packaged the products, when did the rain fall to nourish the crops, who planted the seeds.

Instead, here is a typical American scenario: "I'm running late, I still have so much to do, let me just grab a bite to eat." Easy enough. Two or three seconds later you approach a strip of fast food chains. Take your pick: slowly fried to a crispy, greasy solid slab, nuked to perfection, or freshly dispensed chemical fizz. And it's ok because you can pull up to an impersonal speaker, whip out your impulsive order and completely avoid acknowledging how any of the "food" was prepared and packaged. Ignore and detach yourself from the process, then mindlessly consume the contents of the paper bag while driving an hour to your next appointment. Two hours later, you're hungry again! Sound familiar. It does to me. It's a fast food culture. More accurately, however, it's a "Fast Food Nation," says Eric Schlosser who wrote a book of the same title. He even quotes the undeniable

fact that this way of life is so ingrained in our society that Americans now spend more money on fast food each year than on higher education. The question remains – does this somehow reflect the imbalance and distorted views we have concerning food and health and ourselves?

There has been much written, regarding the reasons why we eat, and eat and eat, even if we are not hungry. Whether you would like to admit it or not, it is an undeniable fact that food has become one of the defining features of the American landscape and the social arena. And, the term "food" is not limited to the characterization of something you eat. Coffee shops and juice bars have spread rapidly, making their presences known on almost every other block in some major cities, most distinctly in Los Angeles. Everywhere you go, everywhere you look, life is imbued with an emphasis on this consumption, almost to excess.

And it all gets overwhelming, so much so that it has become familiar. We have stopped questioning what we "need;" instead, we live and breathe this recognizable atmosphere, one which is stuffed with the desires and "wants" we mistakenly assume we cannot live without. For instance, certain people have to have coffee in the morning. Now, is this necessary or has the dependency grown through the habit of having a cup every morning? It has now become a custom, a ritual in a sense, so familiar, so many times repeated, and because of this, any change is not only extremely difficult to initiate, but it is uncomfortable.

It is undeniable that the body cannot live without food. But the question which most provokes my interest has

been the connection between eating and the desires sparked within the mind to fill a more intangible void. True, eating is a biological necessity for survival, but there seems to be much more to eating, especially in our society, than merely the need to satisfy biological urges. It is hard to deny the power food has on the mind, our moods, and our outlooks on life. It is rejuvenating in more than one respect; it is, in the most basic sense, a comfort.

Any of these sound familiar? I eat because it makes me feel better. I eat because I am bored. I eat because I have nothing else to do. I eat because I am too tired to do my homework. I eat because it is right in front of me. I eat because I have nothing else to look forward to. I eat because I can forget about what else is going on in my life and in the world. With any of these reasons, food has evolved into far more than nutrition for the body; it is a convenient distraction.

So if we do indeed eat even if we are not hungry, how can these urges be satisfied without overly indulging in excessive desserts and other fattening foods? Everything in moderation is crucial. Neither an ascetic lifestyle nor one of unrestraint is the answer. Life is a struggle for balance and the pursuit towards self-knowledge. Know what you need. Resist what you know you don't. Enjoy what you do eat thoroughly, and you won't go searching for more later. Be mindful of your surroundings and yourself in the Buddhist tradition of awareness. In developing this sense of understanding, you might find yourself looking for a satisfying book instead of a pack of Oreos.

The Academy organized in May 1927, to show support for the advancement of motion pictures. It recognizes those individuals that work hard and devote their life to the entertainment industry. The Oscars is the most prestigious award an actor/actress, director, etc... can receive. The Current president is Frank Pierson, who took office in August 2001. This year's host is the Oscar-winning actress Whoopi Goldberg, this will be her fourth time as host for the Academy Awards. The Academy Awards will telecast on March 24, 2002.

ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

Russell Crowe
Sean Penn
Will Smith
Denzel Washington
Tom Wilkinson

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Halle Berry
Judi Dench
Nicole Kidman
Sissy Spacek
Renée Zellweger

ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
Monsters, INC.
Shrek

BEST PICTURE

A Beautiful Mind
Gosford Park
In The Bedroom
The Lord of the Rings:
The Fellowship of the Ring
Moulin Rouge



Photo Courtesy of
www.oscars.com

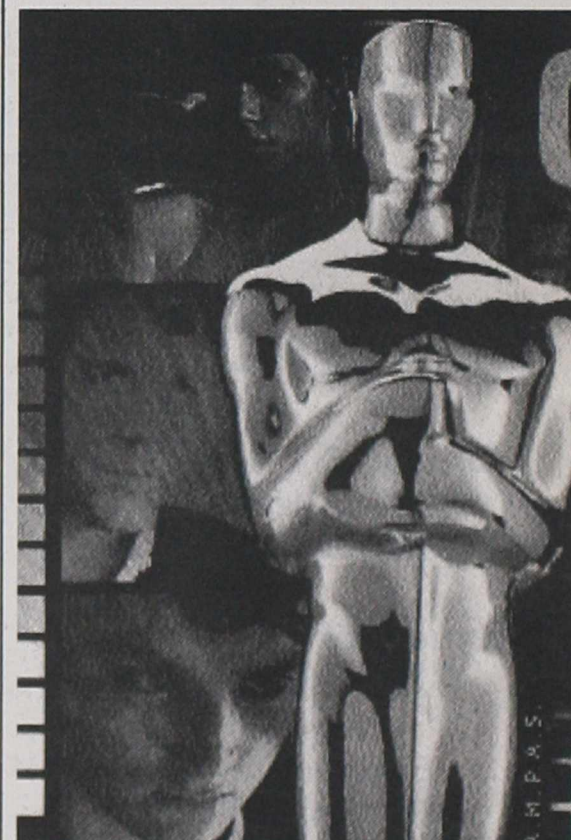


Photo Courtesy of www.oscars.com

Olympic Update...

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

Σ As of press time on 2/13/02, the U.S. is the leading country in medal standings with 3 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze medals for a total of 9 medals altogether. Austria follows with 8 total medals, Germany with 7, Norway also with 7, and Russia with 5.

Σ This is the first year that the skeleton is an allowed Olympic event since the 1948 winter games whereafter it was contested for presenting a significant risk to the lives of the participants. Prior to 1948 it had also been contested in the 1928 Olympic games. The skeleton first entered the Olympics in 1880. Athletes lie headfirst on their stomachs, traveling at speeds up to 80 mph. Think of it as the luge on its belly. Eighteen countries have entered participants for this event, including five from the U.S.



Σ The Olympics is not rid of scandals yet! After the press has only just cooled off from rumors that Salt Lake City "paid off" members of the International Olympic Committee in an effort to bribe them to choose Utah's capital for the venue of the 2002 Winter Olympics, another scandal is in the headlines, this time over an alleged rigged or predetermined medal winning.

Canadian pair figure skaters David Pelletier and Jamie Sale who were the World Champion's going in, skated an error-free performance yet the judges ranked them only second, on the heels of the Russian Federation's Anton Sikharulidze and Yelena Berezhnaya who were awarded the gold even though Anton took a fall during one of his jumps. The Olympic Committee is reported reviewing the controversy but doubts the medals will be reversed. Pelletier and Sale have displayed the utmost professional humility and modesty as in an interview with Katie Couric on the Today Show where they expressed Canadian pride, and well-wishes for the Russian team.

Interesting 2002 Winter Olympic Facts:

Prawat Nagvajara, 43, a ski professor at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Born in Bangkok, came to America in 1976 to attend college and has since graduated with his PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He entered the men's cross country skiing competition for the country of Thailand, making him the first Thai athlete ever to compete in the Winter Olympic Games, and the only Thai entrant for the 2002 Games.

Elena Berezhnaya, Russian pairs figure skater, has recovered from near death in 1996 when, during a training session, her partner's ice skate blade pierced her skull and caused a 2-inch gash in her skull. She required emergency brain surgery, which resulted in impaired speech and paralysis on the right side of her body for a period of time. Her current skating partner and romantic interest, Anton Sikharulidze, rushed to the hospital to be with her and for the first time they discussed the possibility of skating together once she was well. Elena has since fully recovered and the duo has returned to the ice to win a gold medal in the pairs figure skating competition.

Picabo Street, 30, competed for the U.S. in the women's alpine skiing competition. Already an Olympic gold medal veteran, Picabo declared the 2002 Winter Olympics her last Olympic games and has proposed to retire at the conclusion to get married and raise a family. Her interesting name of Picabo was given to her by her 1960s hippie parents, Stubby and Dee Street, who decided to let their daughter choose her own name so for the first two years of her life referred to her only as "Little Girl." When this name didn't satisfy a U.S. passport officer when Little Girl was 4, the official gave her parents 2 weeks to choose a name. She loved playing the childhood game "peek-a-boo" and the town of Picabo, Idaho was just adjacent to where the family was living at the time, so her name was decided. Shortly thereafter her parents gave her the option of changing it, but at 4 she decided to retain it and has been known as Picabo ever since. To the Picabo Indian tribe of Idaho, the name means "shining waters," which is ironically the makeup of the snowy slopes that Picabo would later ski down in her Olympic triumphs.

Athenian Day 2002

Athenian day is a day of fun and games where students, faculty, staff, and alumnae are invited to participate in a variety of events. It is held in the spirit of friendly competition and team pride. This year Athenian Day will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, so mark your calendars now. It is going to be so much fun, and you're not going to want to miss it!

Signing up is simple. First, come by the Fitness Center and grab a registration form. Then, choose a team of six players, pick a team captain, fill out the registration forms, and turn it in to the Fitness Center.

Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni can all participate. There can be up to two men per team, but they must be MSMC affiliated as well.

\$6 per person. This covers a t-shirt for every team member, and the luncheon held after the events.

Team Captains from each team will have a meeting the week prior to get any additional information and an event package. Time, date and place to be announced.

If you have any questions please call the Fitness Center, the ext. 4345 (Chalon) and ext. 2674 (Doheny).

LA Lakers Schedule

February

22 Fri @ Charlotte	4:30 pm	KCAL DTV
24 Sun @ New York	9:00 am	NBC,CTV
26 Tue @ Milwaukee	5:00 pm	KCAL TBS
27 Wed @ Minnesota	5:00 pm	KCAL DTV

March

1 Fri Indiana	7:30 pm	FSN DTV
3 Sun Houston	6:30 pm	FSN DTV
5 Tue New Jersey	7:30 pm	FSN DTV
6 Wed @ Utah	5:00 pm	KCAL TNT,TSN
10 Sun New York	3:00 pm	NBC
12 Tue Charlotte	7:30 pm	FSN
14 Thu @ Golden State	7:30 pm	KCAL DTV
15 Fri L.A. Clippers	7:30 pm	FSN DTV
17 Sun Dallas	6:30 pm	FSN DTV
19 Tue @ Dallas	5:30 pm	KCAL DTV
20 Wed @ San Antonio	5:00 pm	KCAL,TNT
22 Fri Detroit	7:30 pm	FSN DTV
24 Sun @ Sacramento	3:30 pm	NBC
26 Tue Cleveland	7:30 pm	FSN DTV
27 Wed @ Phoenix	5:00 pm	KCAL TNT

Websites Worth Exploring

By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

This section is a new addition to The Oracle. Upcoming issues will feature additional "websites worth exploring" which are compiled recommendations from students and the editors. If you have a favorite site, let us know and we'll include it in upcoming issues.

* Internet Movie Database: <http://www.imdb.com>

The internet's largest source for movie/television info. This vast database includes every motion picture that was ever made, large or small, independent or huge motion picture company-backed. You can search the database by title, people, character names, memorable quotes, filming locations, plots, or bios.

* Questia: <http://www.questia.com>

A great online library having over 15 million pages of full-text books, periodicals, journals, research paper help (including various citation forms: MLA, APA, et al.) accessible at the click of a mouse. Membership is somewhat pricey at \$14.95/month or \$149.95/year, but much can be gleaned from the site's free services as well.

* Ancestry.com: <http://www.ancestry.com>

Get started researching your family history, a fun and gratifying project. This is a great starting point. Post messages in surname forums, look up archival records, even create your own website to share your findings. The site boasts over 1.3 billion names in its various collections. Similar sites include: FamilyHistory.com, GenForum.com, FamilySearch.org, Rootsweb.com, KindredConnections.com, and Genealogy.com. Start tracing your genealogy today!

* Classmates.com: <http://www.classmates.com>

Ever wonder what happened to your buddies from high school, middle school, even elementary school since you've all parted ways? Visit Classmates.com and browse through school alumni lists sorted by graduation year. Read people's bios, see pictures, even contact them by e-mail through the paid member subscription service (\$3/month, or \$36/year). Add yourself to your schools today! Similar sites include: Alumni.net, Gradfinder.com, ClassReunionSearch.com and HighSchoolAlumni.com.

* ChickClick: <http://www.chickclick.com>

Great articles, message boards and forum topics, cool content, free e-mail address: yourname@chickclick.com, shopping, news, advice, daily quizzes, other exciting spots to check out – all for free! Similar sites include: Gurl.com, Lifestyle section at Delias.com, and FunStuff section at GirlfriendsLA.com.

Vacation From Home!

By Stephanie Sampson

Spring Break is a mere two weeks away.

Looking forward to that long-awaited exotic vacation to Costa Rica or Cancun? Can't wait to go skiing in the Swiss Alps? Is your hotel room in the Caribbean triple confirmed? Right. And that white spot on the horizon is Prince Charming coming to sweep you away on his valiant steed. If these or equally as fabulous destinations are alas only fantasies for you, read on. You don't even need to leave L.A. to have a vacation!

* Catalina – It's an island, and it's probably as close to tropical paradise as you're going to get right now. Ferries leave daily from San Pedro, Long Beach, and Dana Point with fares starting at just \$21. Catalina boasts restaurants, shops, a casino, diving, boating, golf, and perhaps the most fun is renting a golf cart to give yourself a scenic tour of the island, including the Wrigley mansion and the Buffalo reserve.

* Restaurants – Like this town has a shortage of those! From the fun yet affordable (P.F. Chang's, Island's, El Cholo, Gladstone's, Ed Debevic's, Mel's Diner) to pricier "date" fare (Michael's, The Lobster, Chez Mimi, Röckenwagner) there is a restaurant to cater to every palate, nationality, region, or budget. So grab your roommate or round up some friends and go out for Brazilian, Lebanese, Ethiopian, or – garlic? (The Stinking Rose). Try something new!

* Go to the park – Not just for kids! There are lots of great parks in the area. Pack a picnic, grab a Frisbee, tennis rackets, balls, and enjoy some of L.A.'s greenery. Stoner Park (1835 Stoner Ave. at Nebraska), Rancho Park (Motor Ave. south of Pico), Self-Realization Fellowship (Sunset before PCH), Clover Park (Ocean Park at 27th), to name a few.

Museums:

* Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA): This museum has just acquired Islamic art from the 7th – 19th century called the Madina Collection of Islamic Art. These works are from places such as southern Spain, central Asia, and the Middle East. Another exhibit is called A Century of Fashion, 1900-2000. This exhibit how "the 20th century witnessed exceptionally rapid and radical changes in women's dress. The exhibition demonstrates how changing styles in fashionable dress mirrored changes in society—and particularly how fashion both shaped and reflected each decade's concept of the ideal woman." For more information call (323) 857-6000

Concerts:

- * No Doubt @ Long Beach Convention Center February 26th, 7:30pm. Tickets on sale now.
- * Beck @ The Wiltern Theatre in L.A. February 26th, 8:00pm. Tickets on sale now.
- * Gorillaz @ The Hollywood Palladium March 8th & 9th, 6:30pm. Tickets on sale now.
- * Rollins Band @ the Troubadour March 8th, 8:00pm. Tickets on sale now.
- * *NSYNC @ Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim March 11th & 12th, 7:30pm. Tickets on sale now.
- * Dave Matthews Band @ Staples Center May 15th 7:30pm, tickets on sale 2/16, 10am.
- * Bad Religion @ Hollywood Palladium March 30th 6:30pm, tickets on sale now.

For more information or to purchase tickets call Ticketmaster (213) 480-3232 or purchase online, www.ticketmaster.com



Mount St. Mary's College THE ORACLE

"Keeping the Mount informed...from campus to campus"

March 29, 2002

12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049
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Death By A Mother's Hand

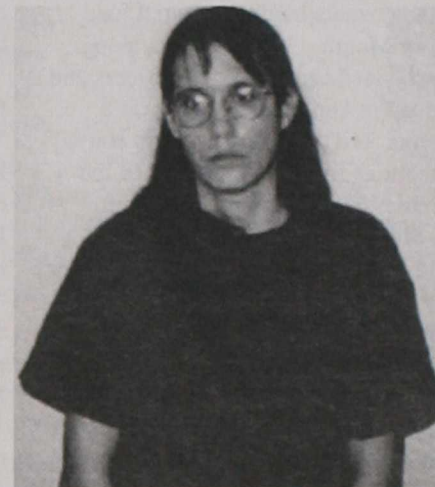
By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

Houston woman Andrea Yates, 37, was convicted on two counts of murder accompanying a life in prison sentence after drowning her five children, Noah, John, Paul, Luke and Mary, (whose ages ranged from 6 months to 7 years), while in a serious bout of postpartum depression. Yates admitted to the drownings stating that the devil whispered the orders into her ear to kill all five of her children, and that she had resisted the same murmurings in her head over at least the prior 6 months ordering her to "get the knife." Yates pleaded not guilty on account of insanity. She remained "unemotional" throughout the trial, and even when reading a note she had written in jail recalling her children, she

never uttered words of apology. The jury took only 35 minutes of deliberation to convict, opting not to grant the death penalty. Yates is currently being medicated for the treatment of psychosis. Her husband, Russell "Rusty" Yates, has consistently stood by his wife throughout the ordeal, harshly criticizing the family's medical care for not diagnosing or treating her mental illness. He has recently appeared on the Today Show, Larry King Live, and The Early Show in her defense. When asked if he will remain married to his wife now she will be in prison for the rest of her life and his children are gone, Rusty Yates responded, "I don't know. It will be hard being apart."



Nightly News



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The Mount Faces Dissent

By Maria Ochoa and Lorena Santos

On March 1, 2002, the Campus Center of Mount St Mary's College became the sight of a student forum. A group students and faculty came together voicing their opinions and concerns to the administration. In attendance to answer questions or assay concerns were Dennis Chiu, Controller; Jane Lingua, Vice-President for Student Affairs; President Jacqueline Powers Doud; Sr. Mary Williams, Provost; and Dr. Mari Wadsworth, Associate Vice-President among others. Questions ranged from obtaining reliable heating systems in the residence halls to financial aid to the state of the political science department at the Mount. While many questions received a reply, few of the most hard-hitting seemed to receive concrete answers. One student, Jessica La Grange, noted that the most important questions about financial aid and other matters seemed to have been "dodged." Among questions answered were that the tuition the Mount charges only covers about 70% of its expenses, the other 30% or so is covered by fundraising. Students asked if there was a breakdown of where exactly their tuition heads, available. They were informed that sometime in the near future a chart would be posted on the college's website.

Other students questioned the award banquet system where students meet donors who have contributed to their financial situation through scholarships. The question arose as to whether the donors

knew that when a student is awarded a scholarship by them, other financial aid is diminished. Some students, like Manda Molina, even explained that the scholarship is not very helpful because the names of her awards change but the amount stays the same, undoing any prospect of, actual, additional help. Administration's response to this was that the donors are aware that when they donate money, dispersal of this is spread out to reach more students.

The present state of the history department presented another passionate issue. Students wanted to know why two full-time teachers Dr. Simonelli, head of Political Science, and Douglas Becker were leaving the Mount. Administration responded by saying that they were actively seeking new faculty to fill their slots. Other students questioned why Dr. Shone, who was well regarded by many of the students, is leaving the Mount. Students were advised to attend another forum where Sister Mary Williams would be answering questions regarding the History and Political science Departments.

One student also brought about a seeming incongruity between the beautiful and serene exterior of our campus and the inner workings that are less than harmonious. It seems that for many students the technicalities involved in being part of an "institutional function" have gotten to be enough.

Dissent and student concerns have always been a part of Mount Culture, usually as a silent consensus. Most students are aware of it by the murmurings at the dinner table or when talking privately with friends. While many "wish something was done about it" there is usually a fed-up minority who takes it upon themselves to voice student concerns, but lately quiet concern has turned to action. Last semester saw a petition and much indignation on behalf of graduating Seniors over the change of graduation venue. This semester small orange flyers have been anonymously posted declaring "Athena Speaks" and inviting the Mount community to join topica.com's e-mail list on student outcries by logging onto www.topica.com/lists/athena. Other acts of guerrilla protest have been cited recently including copies of an e-mail previously posted on the "Athena" list, entitled "Sour Grapes", attributed to ousted Political Science professor, Dr. Shone, having been posted on parked cars by unknown persons. While nobody knows who began the online list or who posted the letters, it is certain that not all Mount students will sit, forever, idly by when their futures are at stake and that the administration must take a stand to build a better college for present and future generations by building on current student concern.

Two Inspirational Women Get Real with Doheny Students

By Jessica Martinez
Staff Writer

In the midst of all the filming commotion and Grammys being handed out, Doheny students packed the Donohue Center for a hour of laughter and motivational words of wisdom. No, it was not Dawson's Creek or reruns of Friends. Instead, two prominent women showed up to talk to the students. This is one of many events being presented for Black History Month. Maria Lyons, along with the Associated Student Body officers and the Black Student Union, are putting on a week of events for Doheny. The night started with introductions from the president of the Black Student Union, Rheannon Goodlet, Associated Student Body President, Alysia Passero, and from the Dean of Students, Sister Janet Duffy.

The first guest, Shawn Snider Chapman, gave Doheny students some things to ponder and suggestions as to how they can accomplish their dreams if their minds are set to it and give it their best. Chapman graduated from UCLA and Southwestern Law School, where she received a criminal law degree. Chapman also talked about joining the law firm that Johnny Cochran ran and how being there led her to the O.J. Simpson trial and playing a huge role during the case. She also mentioned many other cases that she took on while working at the firm, including defending Michael Jackson, Snoop

Dogg and the late Tupac Shakur. Currently, Chapman is representing Sara Jane Olson regarding her involvement with the Symbionese Liberation Army and the allegations of bombing a police car and committing murder.

La'Chelle Monique Woodert was an act by herself. She was fashionably late and as soon as she walked into the Center, she started making jokes about the traffic and anything else that happened to her. The whole room burst out in laughter and that is when she said, "I'm getting real with my sisters!" A personal friend of Maria Lyons, Woodert grew up in the "ghetto" (Watts) and attended North Hollywood High School. She went across the country to study abroad at Oxford University, England, with the help from her fellow church members. Woodert passed the bar on her first try and is currently in private practice, and specializing in criminal defense. Some famous people that she has represented include James Brown and Tupac Shakur.

Doheny students entered the Donohue Center not knowing what to expect from Chapman and Woodert. After the presentation, students left with hope and inspirational from the words that they spoke. What we have to remember is to start relationships with each other as soon as possible, take advantage of everything we have, pursue our dreams, that everyone has a purpose and a plan for life, and to always be real with your fellow sisters and brothers!

It is that time of the year again
where we say,

"Out with the old, in with the new!"
Would you like to become part of the Oracle staff for the 2002-2003 academic year?

Applications are available starting Monday, April 1, 2002 in the Student Affairs office, from 8am to 4:30pm. All positions are open. Application deadline is Friday, April 12, 2002 by noon. Make sure to sign up for an interview time when you turn in your application. If you have any questions, please contact Geovanna Henao, Editor in Chief, at (310) 954-4469.

From the Residence Council Association

RCA (Residence Council Association) would like to thank all Doheny students for participating in their 2nd annual Roommate Game, held on February 27th. Congratulations to Freshman Daisy Galarza and her roommate, Alondra Franco, who won the game. They each received a lovely gift and their floor won extra spirit points. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

RCA and RHA would like Chalon and Doheny residents to look for announcements about an upcoming program/activity between both campuses. They would like all residents to participate in the activity. More information will be posted in Chalon Student News, Doheny Happenings, or from any RCA/RHA officers.

THE ORACLE

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EDITORIAL: Reaction to Turmoil

This month has been full of questions, anger and confusion among Mount students. The Administration tried to address these issues by holding student forums. However, some students or student decided to take these issues into their own hands. Some anonymous individual/s distributed flyers expressing their opinion about recent events and went as far as commenting that the Oracle was a biased newspaper. The flyers had the RHA stamp of approval. I questioned the validity of the stamp and discovered that indeed it was obtained falsely. Why did the student/s feel the need to address their issues anonymously and dishonestly? Are we not a college that supports freedom of speech? Are we not women and men who are not only learning academics but also ethics? The anger among students resonates throughout the Mount. The lack of information we receive from administration and professors allows for speculation, which leads to chaos. Should there be so much of a difference in how administrators and students deal with these issues? I do not feel there should be such a division. We are all a community. A community can only succeed by working together. Each of us involved with the Mount provides a piece to the puzzle. A puzzle that is now missing pieces. These missing pieces are creating gigantic gaps. If we do not find these missing pieces soon, the sense of community that the Mount once prided itself with will deteriorate and our puzzle will be incomplete. We should all work together with honesty and respect for each other. This is the only way to make the changes needed in order to make our small but precious community unite again.

Women Who Lead

By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

Three women prominent in their respective fields whose ages all span different decades were the inspiration for the "Women Who Lead" event sponsored by the Business Department and the Accounting Association on Wednesday, March 6 at 2:00pm in the Campus Center.

The audience was greeted by Mary Sloper, chair of the Business Department, who introduced each panelist and amusingly touted the importance of flexibility as the event began slightly behind schedule. Sr. Mary Williams opted to "invoke great women" as an alternative to an opening prayer, calling to mind women of such prominent leadership as Rachel, Esther, Judith, Mary of Nazareth, Mother Cabrini, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Dorothy Day whose commonalities appeal to modern women leaders through their attributes of faith, laughter, tears, and power. Dr. Doud, President of the College, also gave opening words of welcome as she invited the audience to listen to the stories of "women leaders who have been inspirational, motivators, and how they have grown." Dr. Doud quoted the Benedictines recalling that "always, we begin again" as inspiring words of encouragement, further suggesting that in becoming leaders, several important affirmations are to learn to ask questions, study the issues, develop the strength to recognize what you don't know, and to focus on improvement, no matter how small, because no one is perfect.

The first was a story touting the benefits of risk-taking. Joan A. Payden, Founder and CEO of Payden & Rygel, is a woman of firsts. She began her California-based global investment firm in 1983 which now boasts 135 employees and \$37 Billion in assets under management. Headquartered in downtown Los Angeles, the company also has offices in London and recently partnered with a German bank continuing its globalization process. Armed with a degree in math and physics from Trinity College, (not unlike the Mount as a small, Catholic women's college), Ms. Payden had no idea what she wanted to do with her life, only what she didn't want to do. In the 1960's she went to work for an oil company as a chemical engineer alongside 600 men, where her duties involved sizing oil pipes and blow-off valves until one year, just before Christmas, she was laid off along with 300 other employees, which forced to go on unemployment assistance for

two months. After this she got a job with financial powerhouse Merrill Lynch where she became the first woman partner, and later went on to become the first female partner at investment company Scudders, Stevens & Clark, a subsidiary of Zurich Financial Services Group...all this without having a business degree, MBA, or a graduate degree. Ms. Payden completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University designed for those who are 15-20 years established in their careers. Of 160 people in the program, two were women, one of whom was Joan Payden. She soon tired of "corporate people" and was eager for something else, she just didn't know what. When asked on a job interview, "Do government bonds really turn you on that much?" she answered "Yes!" and it is this passion and belief that urged her shortly thereafter to acknowledge that "the risk of not doing something is just as great as doing something." She left Scudder in 1983 to start her own business, a pension fund management and financial services company, starting with 4 employees and the money in her 401K plan as initial capital. Joan Payden attributes her success to commitment, hard work, and passion. She has witnessed that failings in the financial industry come from greed and hubris and that all people should learn humility. She sees more challenges and expectations in the workforce today than when she first began, and concluded, "Just like 5 and 10 year earnings projections...they never happen" to ingrain the importance of flexibility, no matter how secure goals and plans may seem today. Joan Payden is a decorated community volunteer having received a community service award for her involvement with the St. Joseph Center in Santa Monica. She is also a Trustee with USC, and her company, Payden & Rygel displays an extensive list of active community involvement to include charitable contributions, educational support, holding various Board positions with non-profit organizations, and involvement with other local, national, and international professional associations.

The second presenter was Zulema Garcia, 1995 alumni of the Mount, who addressed the importance of maintaining relationships. Ms. Garcia is presently a CPA with KPMG, one of the "Big 5" accounting firms, and holds a position as Manager in Assurance Practice. She demonstrates a track record of great success though only seven years into her career. Ms. Garcia married young and had a child while in her first year of college. Though confronted with the pressures of

maintaining a young family, she was determined to complete college and accomplish. She attributes her baby's birth during this pivotal time with giving her the determination to go on and do what she needed to do. While still in college, Ms. Garcia got a job working for an entrepreneur - a relationship she made early on. This gave her the flexibility she needed to take care of her family while still going to school. She networked extensively while in college and built relationships with professors and others in the business world. She went to work for KPMG after graduation and managed through the rigors of corporate accounting, complete with the long hours and hard work that a "newbie" to such a firm must endure. Expecting to be with KPMG for only about two years, she remained and was soon promoted to Manager, a position which she continues to enjoy today as she awaits Partner, perhaps only 3-5 years away for a woman of her determination and skill. Ms. Garcia preaches hard work, responsibility, and communication as a conduit for relationship management. Whether keeping in touch with people via phone, e-mail, or person-to-person, "Opportunities are often there, often unexpected...whatever you do will be influenced by people you've met and the impact they have on your life." Zulema Garcia's commitment to influencing her community continues with her involvement in the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting.

Jan Perry, L.A. Council Representative for the city's 9th District (which lies immediately east of the Doheny campus by just a few blocks), focused her talk on attention and influence. "Be quiet and listen...God will show you the way." Always looking for a place where she belonged, Ms. Perry considered herself a rebellious "counter-revolutionary" high school student in her native Woodmere, Ohio, about 12 miles east of Cleveland. She entered the Upward Bound program for at-risk kids and from there went to Case Western Reserve University where she achieved Dean's List status. She transferred to USC and graduated with a degree in Journalism, later receiving her master's in Public Administration also from USC. Ms. Perry loved the big city aspect of USC, and she quickly got involved on campus. Ms. Perry attributes the influence of her parents as the greatest contribution to her success; they encouraged community involvement, drove people in their neighborhood to go vote, and handed out fliers on fair housing and other pertinent topics. Beyond this she ascribes credit to

women, particularly older women, for their influence. She has witnessed that "women focus on relationships and the depth of relationships, not just promotion for promotion's sake, but they do things with emotion." Jan Perry decided to run for City Council because she liked the idea of having an impact on people's lives, and having the ability to work with all people, "including women-friendly men." She noted that sections of Los Angeles comprised a society of disenfranchised, lonely people with rampant gang activity, and yards restraining pitbulls and rottweilers. She was endorsed by two independent, rebellious-natured activists who encouraged her not to give up even if traditional elected leadership representatives were not always eager to lend their support, and she began the hard work of getting elected to the L.A. City Council. She began her campaign by walking the streets, knocking on doors, and talking to people. As a result of her hard work, Jan Perry was elected in July, 2001 with a 57%-43% margin of victory. She continues her lifestyle of service through her involvement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, and she is now helping other women get elected to various positions of distinction.

The three distinguished women who profiled their lives for the Mount community prescribe these mantras for success: stay determined, take risks, focus on building relationships of all types, and be dedicated to service. It is encouraging and inspiring to know that these three individuals came from rather ordinary circumstances and pulled the resources for success from within themselves. They were not born into fortune, they were not simply handed jobs in the upper echelons of their respective fields, and things didn't necessarily come easily for them. They came to achieve what they have by playing an active part in the pursuit of their futures. Though only one claims the Mount as her alma mater, the personal missions of all of these women clearly echo the mission of the Mount itself: "...building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others." For those undecided Athenians who don't have crystal ball glimpses of what are to be your places in the world, consider taking directive advice from these three women of success as you continue your own journeys toward becoming women who lead.

Oldies but Goodies: Hollywood Revamps classics

The Count Of Monte Cristo

By Maria Ochoa

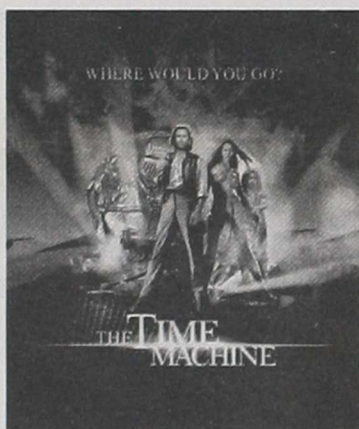
Alexandre Dumas is one of the most cinematically embraced writers the world has known. Recently Kevin Reynolds, under Buena Vista Pictures filmed a new version of Dumas' classic *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Like all adapted Hollywood films there are some changes made to the original storyline, but even the most ardent Dumas' fans will love this film.

The film centers around a dashing and noble seaman, Edmond Dantes (Jim Caviezel), whose freedom, fortune, and boyhood love are unjustly ripped from him by jealous and power hungry foes. Edmond is betrayed as a Bonapartist, follower of exiled French ruler Napoleon, by his rich best-friend Mondego, (Guy Pearce of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *L.A. Confidential*) who envies Edmonds happy and love-filled life despite his poverty. Mondego enlists the help of power hungry royalist, (supporters of English Rule) Villeforte, who confiscates a subversive letter from Napoleon unwittingly given to the illiterate Edmond. All seems fine, until

Edmond is thrown into the Chateau D'If, an island jail where he is isolated and tortured without reason. Years pass until an industrious Abbe gives him a new lease on freedom when he accidentally tunnels into his cell. The priest enlists Edmonds help to escape the prison, in return offering him a hidden treasure. Edmond asks for an education from the priest who was a highly educated swordsman in his youth. From that moment on Edmond begins planning and carefully exacting his revenge on the men that used him. An incredible journey begins with Edmonds escape. It strikes several deep cords on justice, mercy, and human duality.

Lush costumes, great acting, diverse casting, a great love-story, exciting plot twists and swordfights make this movie a must see. It definitely caters to a wide range of audiences but past Dumas' adaptation failures, like the *Musketeer* and *Man in the Iron Mask* may make audiences wary. Definitely an entertaining movie, worth \$9.

Rated PG-13.



www.imdb.com

The Time Machine

By Maria Ochoa

The *Time Machine* centers around Alexander Hartdegen, a heartbroken scientist, who builds a time machine and later uses it to seek a remedy to a personal tragedy. Instead he finds that the past cannot be ignored or erased but the future must be faced with courage. He travels to the future in search of a way to undo the past but ends up in a world where human civilization and technology has caused a cataclysmic disaster. The moon falls and destroys most of life on earth and human beings find themselves at a lower rung of the food chain. The surviving humans led by Hartdegen (Guy Pearce) fight grotesque mutations for survival. Despite a few wise philosophical statements and promising new-comers, overall the movie stinks.

Pearce plays a rather flat lead, it might have made for a good supporting player, but he falls short of his other memo-

orable roles, including the brazen Mondego in *Count of Monte Cristo*. Too much attention to special effects detracts from the movie itself. Although a refreshing conception of the future and great cinematography combine in the museum scene and in the cliff dwellers' city. Orlando Jones is wonderful as the techno-librarian and brother/sister team Samantha Mumba and Omero Mumba prove to be delightfully surprising new-comers. Jeremy Irons delivers a good role as the evil-doer but not his best work by far. If an exciting or romantic and entertaining historical piece is up your alley see the count of Monte Cristo, if you are a die-hard Sci-fi fan, rent the *Fifth Element* or catch a matinee, this movie won't deliver much bang for your buck.

Rated PG-13

Celebrity Goss

Johnny Depp is set to star in a new play by Caryl Churchill, author of the play "Peter Pan" and "Topophilia".

Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears are set to perform a duet at the MTV Video Music Awards.

New inductees to the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame include Isaac Hayes, Brenda Lee, Gene Pitney, and the Turtles, introduced by the likes of Jewel, Green Day, and the Roots.

Robert Downey Jr. was told by a California judge that he has made at his new rehab facility. Downey's lawyers report, which Downey's lawyers and his doctor confirm, that he is drug-free and in compliance with the terms of his most recent arrest.

The airport in Liverpool, England will be the site of a memorial to Yoko Ono, who was on hand to unveil a statue of her late husband, John Lennon's former childhood home in Liverpool.

Rosie O'Donnell officially states her intention to run for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Angelina Jolie and husband Billy Bob Thornton announced they named their son Maddox.

Anne Heche and husband announced they are expecting a child.



Queen of the Damned

By Laarni Paras

Although *Queen of the Damned* suggests that the movie proves otherwise. The film, based on the novel by Anne Rice, chronicles the life of Lestat de Lioncourt, from his early days as a vampire star. Lestat's music and his desire for fame in the vampire world, Akasha.

This movie is most notably connected with the late, great Aaliyah (who debuted in *Romeo Must Die*). In the later half of the film, the singer/actress' skin-deep Egyptian accent make a convincing evil Akasha. Adam, *Shooting Fish*), makes pale look surprisingly attractive. There are also some special effects that those who love all things vampire – bloodthirsty gore – suffice.

Gossip: Ms. M. Belle Isher

new Miramax film titled, "Neverland" as Sir James M. Pan. The film will be directed by Marc Forster.

pear break up?

oll Hall of Fame were Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Pitme, The Ramones and the Talking Heads. They were Green Day and The Wallflowers.

California Judge that he is pleased with the progress the ab facilities. The judge expressed satisfaction with the s and prosecutors said showed the actor had remained in the treatment program he entered last spring following

d will now be known as Liverpool John Lennon Airport. veil 7-foot statue of John Lennon. Ono also bought e in Liverpool and donated it to the National Trust.

her sexual preference on national t.v.

ly Bob Thornton have adopted a Cambodian baby boy

nce the birth of their first child, Homer Laffoon.



www.imdb.com

gest that a female will be the main character, d on the Anne Rice novel of the same name, n his birth as a vampire to his success as a rock in the mortal world awaken the mother of all

d with its title character, played by the recent- (M. Die). Despite her limited appearances in ss skimpy wardrobe, slinky demeanor and kawa. Her costar, Stuart Townsend (About pringly good - he gives Lestat his rock star

are laws in the film. With the exception of a failed to make good, strong connections d the script had a couple of holes: many of the oments were more humorous.

ed dark and sexy. Even the undead looked ct hat help to keep your attention. And for stary fights and seduction - this movie will

A Walk to Remember

By Laarni Paras

A Walk to Remember is a movie based on a Nicholas Sparks novel. It centers on two teenagers in their senior year of high school. Landon Carter, the popular guy, is thrown into the path of Jamie Sullivan, his polar opposite, when he is forced to tutor kids and join a drama class as punishment for a prank that injured a student. Ultimately, Landon and Jamie change each other.

Pop-star-turned-leading-lady Mandy Moore and her co-star, Shane West, share great chemistry. Moore (*Princess Diaries*) was believable as Jamie, the daughter of a Baptist preacher, except for a few slips out of character. She even shed her blonde hair and designer wardrobe for brown bangs and a green sweater. West (*Get Over It* and ABC's *Once and Again*) followed in suit, giving Landon, the son of an estranged father, his resentment and vulnerability.

Sounds like the proverbial rebel and the shy goody-two-shoes plot line being recycled yet again. But much to the dismay of cynical viewers, this isn't another songbird's cheesy vehicle (a la *Glitter*) nor is it the typical teen movie - no fruit-filled pastries, no road trips, and, most importantly, no makeover to turn the introvert into prom queen. In fact, the lead character and theme has taken on an uncommon brand. The ostracized girl isn't supposed to be the ugly duckling waiting for her transformation. And the movie sticks with its wholesome values throughout its entirety.

This film is a sweet and innocent one, even overly so at times (but who really hates sappy?). Puppy love aside, it does have substance. Its uplifting message of love and faith (whether of self or in God) makes this *Walk* quite memorable.

Live at the El Rey

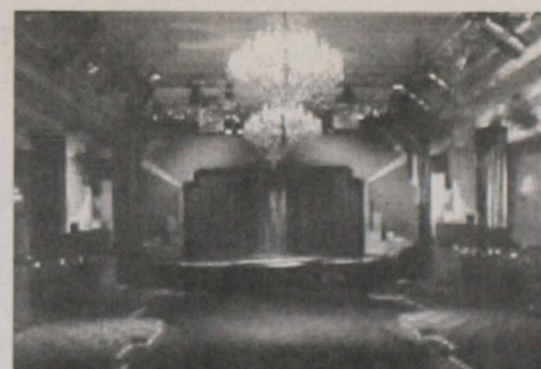
By Laarni Paras

A trip to watch a punk rock group perform turned quite interesting. The band to see was *Average Jo*, now renamed *Jonny Was*, whose lead singer, Shane West was scheduled to play on a March 7 show along with other bands.

The El Rey Theater housed a primarily adolescent audience well. The Wilshire Boulevard venue is a roomy place with burgundy velvet seating areas flanking an ample dance floor. There's also a balcony that overlooks the standing audience and stage, and serves as somewhat of a celebrity hideaway (more of that later).

Relax to Paris was one of the first groups to go on. Although they did well on their own, they were one of the less caustic, less memorable bands. *Calahan* then performed prior to the highly-anticipated *Jonny Was*. They proved to be the most intriguing band - a sun-glassed lead singer drank from his beer can and two scantily and tight leather clad women gyrated onstage for a length of a song. Other than those smirk-inducing gimmicks, *Calahan* belted out their choruses in their whiny, yet still enjoyable voices. Kudos for their catchy hooks, but a "huh?" for their pg-rated strippers.

Jonny Was, was the last audience-grabbing band to take the stage. Shane West (guitar) came on with his other two band



www.theelrey.com

mates, the visibly smiley Ben Gould (bass) and the hidden-behind-the-drumset Jerry Fitzgerald. Besides West's piercing renditions, the band performed tolerably to a high-estrogen, high-pitched crowd. But when *Jonny Was* tried some of their faster pieces, the band was a bit off. Granted they did execute a couple of palatable songs, the band still has much to master.

Ah yes, and the balcony. The elevated spot not only gave groundlings a glimpse of Shane West, it also offered the perfect view of other famous people: *Backstreet Boy* Kevin Richardson with wife Kristin close by. The unexpected pair showed up around *Jonny* time and departed right before their final song. Perhaps this is the small band's chance to get signed. But before any rumors start, here's a tip for *Jonny Was*: Practice more or ride on West's fifteen minutes now, before you become a *Jonny Has Been*..

One Block East of Vermont

By Jenny Kane
Staff Writer

Drive down Hollywood Boulevard and who knows what you might see. I discovered a vast living canvas, teeming with the beautiful, yet sometimes harsh realities of the present day. As I continued east, I gradually found myself in uncharted territory; I had never been to this part of Hollywood before. One block east of Vermont Avenue – I stopped, having come upon my targeted destination.

I had only recently located this unique gallery on the internet a week prior to my setting out in pursuit of determining its actual existence. Still, the La Luz de Jesus Gallery, nicknamed "Wacko," for its ostentatious architectural presentation, was really the one to find me. I was in search of someplace new, a place, as one of the flyers puts it, "devoted to the pursuit of experiences beyond the mainstream." Committed to the eclectic visions of today's most talented and influential artists, the gallery hosts a

broad spectrum of visual commentators.

The current exhibit – "Noncommercial Art by Commercial Artists" – boasts installments from such artists as Mark Ryden, Eric White, Darren Huang, Joe Demaree, Chris Mars, Takahiro Kimura, and Casey Miller Gunschel, just to name a few whose works particularly struck me.

I had set out looking for a typical art gallery, similar to MOCA or the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. These are museums. This gallery is quite the opposite. What I was given instead was an incredible introduction to a counter-culture vision, not at all what I had expected. A gallery, at the back of a store, which sells everything from action figures to books on Zen gardens to tiny plastic pigs, loomed as bright or brighter than the neon paint and fluorescent signs adorning the exterior of the building.

The paintings, the pictures, the sculptures, the image, the messages formed a kaleidoscope of over-

whelming feeling and passion, blending, overlapping, and bending concepts of reality. At times, the pieces seemed to mock society, to question its constructs and existence, and then certain images appeared almost sympathetic. Through the usage of materials and mediums as innovative and varied as the interpreted meanings, each artist holds almost every aspect of human existence up to a microscopic lens, revealing distorted images, some political, some religious, but all commenting on every minute detail of life in one way or another.

And the experiences never seem to end. Whirlwinds of ripped edges and collaged scraps of notebook paper, pieces of metal saws, sewn stenciled, pencil sketches with fabric layers and wooden frames, welded plywood and street signs and a map – these are just a few of the images presented.

Now, this map. A map of Davis Mesa, Colorado, published by the US Atomic Energy Commission was used as a makeshift canvas for a

contorted muscle diagram of the human body. Casey Miller Gunschel calls this piece "Stickfought and Lost." Tendons misplaced, feet and hands occupying different locations, this somewhat gruesome, striking reality forces you to think about the details in connection with medium utilized. I could not find any further information on the internet concerning Davis Mesa and its relationship to the Atomic Energy Commission, although my imagination has filled in a few gaps.

The interpretations are infinite; the enjoyment of each piece in the gallery is also equally as indeterminate and individual. One image may appear almost too done, as if the overwhelming reality overcame and permeated the essence of the work, flooding it, and then certain other installments in the collection seem to radiate an energy of incompleteness, of this lingering question about its meaning and origin. Overall, one is left with a feeling that there is inevitably always more to say, more to experience, and more to see.

"Wonderful Tonight" Spring Formal 2002

By Melissa Romero
Free Lance Writer

Mixed feelings and opinion stirred among those who attended the Spring Formal on February 22, 2002. While many cheered throughout the night about the starlit scenery, the fine dining, the grooving on the dance floor, and the laughs shared among friends, others did not reflect the same emotions. The most common complaint about the event was the price – and the question "was this really worth my \$45?"

In order to provide some basis for those attendees who asked themselves the same question whether or not the event was well worth their while, I sought some answers from Angeli Esquerro, Dance/Formal Chair, cooperated with some facts that may or may not give rest to the infamous question. The cost for the formal included the following: a selection of 3 hot and 2 cold hors d'oeuvres, unlimited soft drink bar, sparkling cider, dinner with choice of entrée, dessert, complimentary valet parking, and an 8x10 picture frame as a keepsake. However, the fee of \$45 per person did not include money used from a separate budget to pay for the facilities at the Castaway (\$2,000), the deejay (\$350), and floral decorations (\$300). Do not be mistaken; ASB did not make a profit from this event.

Ticket sales were extremely low this year, leading to an extension on the deadline for purchasing tickets. Those who coordinated the event, including Angeli Esquerro, estimated that at least 150 people would attend. Less than 100 people attended. Esquerro's opinion about the low ticket sales remains that most people who wanted to pay with checks were not able to. Esquerro added to the previous statement with: "the reason this payment option is no longer used is because the previous years have shown that students had bounced checks."

U.S. Actively seeks the Death Penalty for Suspected Terrorist

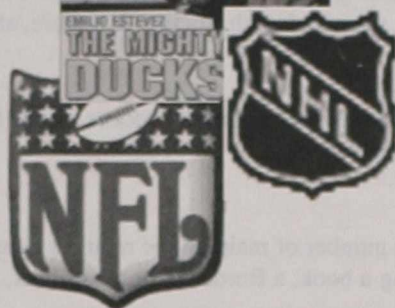
By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

U.S. prosecutors are now working towards a death penalty for Zacarias Moussaoui, should the French citizen be found guilty for involvement in the September 11th attacks. The U.S. government sent out letters to the families of all September 11th victims detailing the intentions of the government in the case regarding Moussaoui. These letters were sent out March 7th and signed by Paul McNulty, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and David Novak, the lead prosecutor on the case. Although the 33-year-old French citizen has not killed anyone, he is accused of conspiring with Osama bin Laden and the Al Qaeda network that carried out the attacks of September. Moussaoui has been charged with six counts of conspiracy, four of which carry the death penalty. Specifically, it is suspected that Moussaoui may have been the intended fifth hijacker of United Flight 93, the only September 11 terrorist that did not hit its target. Moussaoui was in jail on September 11, due to an immigration violation when a Minnesota flight school reported him. He has pleaded not guilty.

This process is not without controversy. Should the U.S. seek the death penalty against a French citizen, Paris will review its cooperation following the probe after September 11th said a French rights group. "France will take steps to alter the agreement stipulating that any information transmitted to the U.S. judicial authorities ... cannot be used by prosecutors pressing for a death penalty," rights groups, including Amnesty International, quoted Justice Minister Marylise Lebranchu's March 15 letter as saying. Jury selection begins on September 30th.

Editors' Picks: Sports Movies

1. A League of Their Own - Baseball
2. Air Bud - Basketball
3. Ali - Boxing
4. American Anthem - Gymnastics
5. Angels in the Outfield - Baseball
6. Any Given Sunday - Football
7. Bad News Bears - Football
8. Basketball Diaries - Basketball
9. Billy Elliott - Ballet
10. Boxer, The - Boxing
11. Bull Durham - Baseball
12. Caddyshack - Golf
13. Center Stage - Ballet
14. Chariots of Fire - Running
15. Cool Runnings - Bobsledding
16. Cutting Edge, The - Figure Skating
17. Fame - Dance
18. Fast and the Furious, The - Racing
19. Field of Dreams - Baseball
20. Fight Club - Boxing
21. Flashdance - Dance
22. Girlfight - Boxing
23. Happy Gilmore - Golf
24. Hoop Dreams - Basketball
25. Hurricane, The - Boxing
26. Jerry Maguire - Football
27. Karate Kid, The (I, II, III) - Karate
28. Ladybugs - Soccer
29. Little Big League - Baseball
30. Little Giants - Football
31. Love and Basketball - Basketball
32. Major League - Baseball
33. Mighty Ducks, The (I, II, III) Hockey
34. Mr. Baseball - Baseball
35. Mystery, Alaska - Hockey
36. National Velvet - Equestrian
37. Remember the Titans - Football
38. Rocky - Boxing
39. Rookie of the Year - Baseball
40. Rudy - Football
41. Sandlot, The - Baseball
42. Save the Last Dance - Dance
43. Searching for Bobby Fischer - Chess
44. Slap Shot - Hockey
45. Snow Dogs - Iditarod
46. Space Jam - Basketball
47. Tin Cup - Golf
48. Varsity Blues - Football
49. Waterboy, The - Football
50. White Men Can't Jump - Basketball



UPDATES

By Geovanna Henao

Daryl Strawberry behind bars...again?

Daryl Strawberry is notorious for causing trouble. He had been out of trouble for a while. On Tuesday, March 12, 2002, Strawberry was removed from the Drug Rehabilitation center 80 miles north of Tampa, where he was serving two years of house arrest. He broke many of the rules and will now face up to 18 months in prison.

Will the "jello jiggle?"

On April 9, 2002, Los Angeles Lakers announcer Chick Hearn, will return to announce the Lakers games again after a long leave due to health reasons.

Los Angeles Dodgers are back!

The 2002-2003 MLB season for the Dodgers will begin on April 2, 2002 at Dodger Stadium.

Meet Me In Bracketville

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

The NCAA college basketball championship tournament started Thursday (3/14/02) and goes in four-day chunks every Thursday through Sunday until the championship game which is expected to be held on Monday, April 1. "Bracketville" is the name affectionately given to the tournament process in which 64 lucky college basketball teams play successively winning teams on their way to the final tournament until there are only two teams left to compete for the national title.

Some key terms and phrases to be aware of over the next few weeks are: seed, March Madness, Final Four, and "is there any more onion dip."

You may have seen sweatshirts or other paraphernalia sporting a diagram that resembles a family tree. This figure illustrates the total number of teams involved in the tournament at the beginning, with each winning team playing another winner until there are only two teams left to compete.

There are both men's and women's tournaments. The more publicized men's division is down from 65 teams to 16 as of press time, including the favorites which are Kansas, Duke, and Maryland. This is the 75th tournament.

Seeding is determined by the NCAA Committee taking the 34 automatic bids and 31 at-large bids, which consist of conference champion winners from the prior season. Seeding theoretically takes the best team (#1) and the worst team (#64) and has them play each other. Subsequently #2 plays #63, #3 plays #62, and so on. This is spread out over 4 geographic regions: west, south, midwest, and east.

This year's court includes teams with such names as the Salukies (the what?). A saluki is an Egyptian greyhound, and the mascot for Southern Illinois. Bulldogs are shared by Gonzaga, Georgia, and Fresno State. Other unique team names include the Hoosiers (which no one outside of Indiana has ever been able to define), the Golden Flashes of Kent State, and the Bearcats (is it a bear, or is it a cat and why can't they just pick one?). The wild west is also represented in this tournament with Gauchos (UCSB) and Cowboys (Wyoming).

Who will win? Well, let's let the sports betters in Vegas ponder that one. Hopefully now you're just a little better prepared for all this hoopla.

Websites Worth Exploring

By Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

*How Stuff Works: <http://www.howstuffworks.com>

Answers to any question you've ever had! Laid out by category including automotive (e.g. how radar detectors work), computers (e.g. how cd burners work), food (e.g. how sourdough bread works), money (e.g. how slot machines work), science & tech, society & culture, and more. Includes mini videos and demonstrations.

*Three Brain: <http://www.threebrain.com>

A fun site when you have time to kill or are looking for a laugh. Contains jokes, hilarious videos, songs and animation, MP3's, and a store where visitors to the site can purchase a Three Brain cd, t-shirt, mug, etc. Contributed by: Maria Ochoa.

*Shop For Change: <http://www.shopforchange.com>

Online buyers can have up to 5% of their total purchase price from a number of main online retailers donated to "such nonprofit groups as Greenpeace, Amnesty International and the Children's Defense Fund. Whether you're buying a book, a Bordeaux or a babyseat, it all adds up to a better world."

*Hollywood Celebrity Homes: <http://www.hollywoodusa.co.uk/celebrity-homes.htm>

See who's living in the neighborhood! Listings include Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Hollywood, and other L.A. areas. Gives addresses and sometimes pictures of the home.

*Responsible Shopper: <http://www.responsibleshopper.com/>

Type in the name of your favorite retailers or major corporations and see how ethical they are! Do they take care of the environment? Conduct animal testing? Use sweatshops? Find out!

*The World At Night: http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earthlights_dmsp_big.jpg

Satellite picture of the world at night as seen from space. See major light concentrations in the cities world-wide. Before now, only astronauts got this view!

*Network For Good: <http://www.networkforgood.com>

Make a donation to charity, be a volunteer in your community, or speak out on issues you care about. Causes include animals & environment, arts & culture, civic & community, education & research, health, human services, international, and religion.

*This Week's Sky At A Glance: <http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/>

What celestial appearances can you witness this week? Find out what's coming to a sky near you!

*Groovy Chocolate: <http://www.groovychocolate.com>

Personalized chocolate greeting cards. Scan your picture and message printed on a delicious chocolate card - completely edible! E-mail your own picture, choose from online clip-art, and customize colors and fonts. Send a unique card that your recipient will never forget (and will be able to eat)! Prices start at \$14USD.

*Quote Geek: <http://www.quotegeek.com>

Your favorite quotations online. Search from quotes in literature, famous personalities and speeches, from movies and television, by theme, etc.

*eMode: <http://www.emode.com/>

Every possible quiz you could ever want to take on yourself. (Some of the most popular: What breed of dog are you? Which candy heart are you? Are you millionaire material? What is your emotional age? What's your perfect car? Handwriting analysis. Are you evil? Which Volkswagen Beetle are you? TONS more!)

Things to do Around LA

By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

Concerts:

No Doubt @ Universal
Amphitheater 3/27 & 3/28
8:00 PM

Dead Kennedys @ Galaxy
Theatre, Santa Ana 4/9 &
4/11 8:30 PM

NOFX @ The Grove of
Anaheim, 4/18 7:00 PM

311 @ San Diego State
Open Air Theatre 4/19 8:00
PM

Go to Ticketmaster.com for
more information.

Catch a Movie:

Panic Room

Release Date: March 29, 2002
Thriller

Starring: Jodie Foster, Forest
Whitaker, Dwight Yoakam, Jared
Leto

Trapped in their New York brown-
stone's panic room, a hidden cham-
ber built as a sanctuary in the event
of break-ins, newly divorced Meg
Altman (Jodie Foster) and her young
daughter Sarah (Kristen Stewart)
play a deadly game of cat-and-mouse
with three intruders during a brutal
home invasion. But the room itself is
the focal point because what the
intruders really want is inside it.

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial

Release Date: March 22, 2002
Science-Fiction/Fantasy and
Kids/Family

Starring: Henry Thomas, Dee
Wallace Stone, Peter Coyote, Drew
Barrymore

"E.T. The Extra Terrestrial" is Steven
Spielberg's warmhearted classic
delight for both children and adults. It
tells the story of an alien creature,
E.T., mistakenly left behind on Earth.
When a young boy, Elliott (Henry
Thomas), finds E.T. and hides him in
his home, both their worlds are
changed forever. E.T. teaches Elliott
and his two siblings (Drew Barrymore
and Robert MacNaughton), whose
parents have recently separated,
about caring and love while the chil-
dren protect E.T. from the malevolent
world of grown-ups. The children end
up going on a fabulous adventure try-
ing to help E.T. find a way back to his
home planet

Blade II

Release Date: March 22, 2002
Action/Adventure, Suspense/Horror

Starring: Wesley Snipes, Kris
Kristofferson, Tcheky Karyo,

Exploding from the pages of Marvel
Comics comes the follow-up to the
blockbuster Blade. Blade (Wesley
Snipes) is half man and half vampire
and consumed by a desire to avenge
the curse of his birth and save the
human race from a blood-drenched
Armageddon. In this newest adven-
ture, Blade must align himself with a
high-powered team of vampires to
take on a greater evil than either has
ever faced -- a new kind of super-
vampire that is itself on a vicious hunt
to eradicate both races.



THE ORACLE

"Keeping the Mount informed...from campus to campus"

April 26, 2002

12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049
10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Volume 8
Number 5

Airport Security

By Yared Salgado
Entertainment Editor

On February 28-March 3, 2002 the National College Newspaper Convention held its 18th Annual Associated Collegiate Press at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Los Angeles. Colleges and Universities from all over the U.S. join this Convention to share the success of their school newspapers. One of the main topics in this year's convention was the event that occurred on September 11. An all-delegate press conference took place where MSMC students joined and brought forth some exciting and educational information. Three main topics were discussed during the press conference, such as Binge Drinking, Club Drugs and Airport Security. But, since the September 11 attacks, many people found the topic of airport security a bit more interesting. Everyone in the audience had a chance to question the experts. Sgt. Leon Nixon, one of the main guests, spoke on behalf of the Office of the Chief of Airport Police of Los Angeles World Airports. During his presentation he mentioned new regulations that will take into affect in the U.S. airports. They are the following:

1. International flights- three hours before departure. Domestic flights- two hours before departure.
2. Family members cannot pass through check point/gate, only ticketed passengers. So please make sure to say your goodbye's beforehand.
3. Be prepared to be asked questions from the ticketing agents such as; "have you received any package/s from any stranger?"
4. Bags/personal items will be checked in front of everyone. He suggested that one should have personal items stored away in a luggage to avoid any type embarrassment.
5. Bags that have sharp objects such as pocketknives, nail filing, etc., will be confiscated.
6. Electronic devices such as pagers, cell phones, laptops, video cameras, photo cameras, etc., will be submitted for inspection.
7. Prepare to be patted down and have shoes taken off before screening.
8. Remember that it is a violation of federal law to scream, threaten, push, snap, or intimidate anyone on the premises, this includes: ticketing agents, passengers, employees, etc.
9. Jokes or false comments of any threat or danger will be fined from \$10,000 -\$25,000.

Sgt. Nixon mentions that, "these regulations have been implemented by the Federal Government and it is our job to exceed them to the maximum. Passengers as well should follow them at all times. Because terrorism is our main issue, one needs to stay calm and patient at all times." These regulations have been applied all over the United States airports and should be followed thoroughly. Please keep in mind these regulations if you are planning to travel this summer and try to avoid any unprecedented delays.

National ID Cards

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

The devastating events of September 11, 2001 have brought back the concept of National ID cards, an idea that Americans have previously rejected each time it has resurged. The U.S. has already begun issuing more secure passports, and next on the list are more secure state ID cards, driver's licenses, and visas for travel into the U.S. (Watch for the new fraud-resistant "Lincoln visa" to be implemented in upcoming weeks). The Office of Homeland Security is reportedly working on the secret development of a National identification system. The Electronic Privacy Information Center defines National ID cards as "a means to enhance national security, unmask potential terrorists, and guard against illegal immigrants." While these concepts might sound like benefits to domestic security, national ID cards are viewed by many as precisely the opposite.

The goal of the newly enhanced heightened security formats currently being implemented in U.S. passports is to make the documents more fraud-resistant and to "help minimize the misuse of American passports by criminals, terrorists and others," according to State Department Deputy spokesman, Philip Reeker. Since the policy took

effect April 8, 2002, Americans applying for new or renewed passports will be receiving back these newly secure formats. The passport photos are digitized onto the passports themselves, and also include other security features, the details of which are not being released to the public.

While most Americans seem to agree that more secure passports are an acceptable way of heightening the security of citizenship documents, fewer people are subscribing to the theory of a heavier "Big Brother" being a justifiable means to combating terrorism. In the weeks immediately following the September 11 attacks, independent research firms conducted surveys reflecting 70% of Americans supporting a public system of National ID cards. However a more recent survey conducted by the Washington Post in February, 2002 indicated that 47% felt National ID cards would be "an easier way for people to verify their identity in places such as airports and government offices...and would make transactions with the government and business faster and more secure."

In reality, national ID cards would not include information any more personal than

Americans are already required to give for such purposes as obtaining a driver's license or passport: date/place of birth, and perhaps a current address or country of citizenship. To emphasize the belief that national ID cards wouldn't be an additional invasion of privacy, one Los Angeles radio commentator stated, "they're asking for information you already provide; not how many relationships you've had, or the balance of your checking account." National ID cards are already in use in many countries around the world including Germany, France, Spain, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

While an unwilling sentiment to compromise personal privacy continues to exist, nearly half of Americans feel that national ID cards would not be a violation of civil liberties and would be no more than a regurgitation of the various forms of identification already occupying most American wallets. As the concept of a national ID card continues to unfold, it will be interesting to observe whether or not a form of identification exists which is impervious to being duplicated or forged.

ASB Thanks You!

The current board members of the Associated Student Body at the Chalon campus would like to thank the Mount St. Mary's College community, students, professors and staff alike, for their involvement and support this year. We congratulate our graduates, and as we look forward to next year's events we wish you good luck on finals and a happy, safe summer to all.

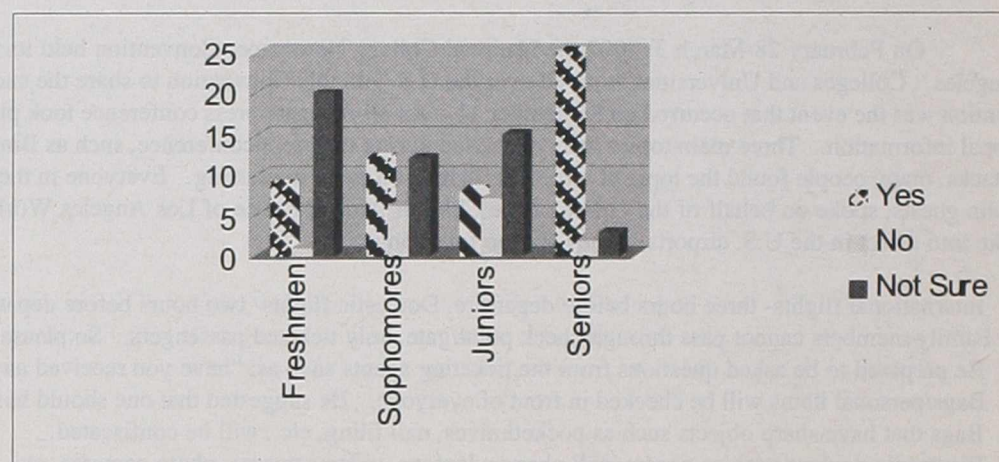
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Poll: Concept of "Study Day" – day off Fri. before finals week

Many U.S. colleges and universities have an official "Study Day" on the Friday before finals week. No classes are held on this day and students are free to use the day to study for their upcoming exams. Would such a day be a valuable thing to instate at the Mount?

Answers:

- *No, people wouldn't use the day to study and would just waste the time.
- *Yes, I love the idea and would make good use of this extra study day.
- *Not sure; it might work, it might not.



Correction

In the article entitled "The Mount Faces Dissent" in March's issue of The Oracle, it was misstated that Douglas Becker of the Political Science Department may no longer be a part of the Mount faculty. The statement was an unsubstantiated lead and was accidentally left in the article. Prof. Becker clarified the mistake assuring The Oracle that he will remain a part of Mount community.

Editorial: Farewell

Another year has ended. Many look forward to the end of their college career, while others continue with theirs. Several controversial issues came to our attention, such as the graduation ceremony on campus, the Political Science department and its conflicts, and the financial debt the Mount was in. These events have a great impact on all of us. Indeed, this year our beautiful college encountered many difficulties, but as a community, we endured. Despite these bad events, we also had many great ones. Multicultural Night was a success, as was Admitted Students Day and the 2nd Annual Psychology Department Symposium. This is what we should look forward to next year.

As we say farewell to this academic year, we ask that we all keep a positive outlook for the upcoming year. We hope that you join the Oracle in seeking greatness and hoping for bundles of success. We would also like to thank all of our supporters this year. You provided us with strength and endurance. Thanks to all of you, the Oracle was successful this year. We hope to see you next year!

THE ORACLE

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UC System Takes Students Out Of Israel

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

Twenty-seven University of California students are back home in the U.S. after spending time abroad studying in Israel. With the recent escalation of violence between Palestine and Israel, the Regents of the University of California thought it best to bring its students back to home soil to avoid potential endangerment. Perhaps serving as prompting for recalling the students, the State Department made an announcement on the same day warning Americans against travelling to this area of the Middle East because "the potential for further terrorist acts remains high." The UC system has suspended its Israeli study abroad program for the coming Fall semester as well, and students already enrolled will instead be allowed to engage in independent study. Hanan Eisenman, a UC university spokesman, stated "In light of the escalating violence in Israel and the region, we decided that the best decision would be to suspend the current programs and bring the

students home."

This is not the first time American college students studying abroad have found themselves among political chaos. Several American universities halted academic activities in China following the 1989 Tienanmen Square incident between Chinese protesters and military troops in Beijing. Israeli programs were also suspended after Iraq fired Scud missiles into Israel during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Similarly, many study abroad programs in Indonesia have been suspended since 1999 due to the civil unrest in that country.

This action has prompted a re-evaluation of the study abroad program not only for the UC schools, but many colleges and universities nationwide. In August, 2001 USC put their study abroad program on hold due to the rising violence in the region, and schools such as the University of Washington and the University of Colorado have done the same.

Some schools, however, are leaving such decisions up to the students who are abroad themselves. Brandeis University, the only nonsectarian Jewish-sponsored college in the country, said that they had no plans to remove the school's eight students who are studying in Israel this semester. The school's president stated that "it's a decision that an individual or family should make," and that "the university shouldn't be telling people where to go or where not to go."

Schools have seen a decline in study abroad programs since the September 11 attacks, and applications for Israel-based foreign study programs started dropping up to 18 months ago when Israeli-Palestinian violence again began to surge. For the currently suspended programs to be reinstated, most schools agree that the political climate in the Middle East will first need to improve significantly.

Pope John Paul II Tours Canada and Central America

By: Yared Salgado
Entertainment Editor



VATICAN CITY – The speaker from the Vatican, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, announced to the Italian Press that between July 23 and August 1, 2002 Pope John Paul II will be visiting Canada, Mexico, and Guatemala. Unfortunately he will not be able to visit New York, and attend the place where the World Trade Center once stood.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II, will turn 82 in May and as many have seen his health is slowly deteriorating. But this has not stopped him from visiting these countries in the previous years. His plans for these countries include a World Wide Celebration of Youth Day on July 23 to the 28 in Toronto, Canada. During the rest of his visit he will travel to Mexico City to canonize the Mexican Indian "Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin" to whom the Virgin Mary, known as the "Virgen de Guadalupe", appeared before him in the XVI century. This apparition aided the Catholic Church to convert the Indians to Catholicism. This event is widely known and many South American Catholic communities have asked for the canonization of Juan Diego for many many years. Another canonization will take place in Guatemala. There he will canonize Peter of St. Joseph of Bentacourt, a Spaniard, whose missions have helped many religious orders. During the XVII century and after, he was widely known for establishing the first religious order in Guatemala.

But before engaging in this tour he will visit Bulgaria and Azerbaijan in May. In August, he hopes to visit Poland, where he is originally from and visit Croatia in September. Many Catholics wait impatiently for his tour this year.



U.S. Reports No Support for Venezuelan Coup

By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

The past several days have been of great political turmoil for Venezuela. With the forced resignation of its president Hugo Chavez, Venezuelan military leaders chose to implement Pedro Carmona as the transitional head of the state. Carmona only led for 1 day after violence by pro-Chavez Venezuelans left three dead.

The New York Times reported that Bush officials met briefly with the Venezuelan coalition that ousted Chavez and in fact, agreed that Chavez should be removed from office. After the coup, many were left speculating whether the United States had any part in the military coup that took place in a country that is the U.S.'s third largest supplier of oil. Reuters reports that a Defense Department official told the Times the administration's me-

ssage was less categorical. "We were not discouraging people," the official told the Times. "We were sending informal, subtle signals that we don't like this guy. We didn't say, 'No, don't you dare,' and we weren't advocates saying, 'Here's some arms; we'll help you overthrow this guy.' We were not doing that."

Another aspect that puts the U.S. in an awkward spot is that it is a principal advocate of the Inter-American Democratic Charter adopted in September, which calls for sanctions against governments that take power by unlawful force. According to federal law, the U.S. is required to impose sanctions on such governments.

On April 16 White House spokesperson, Ari Fleisher said, "Our message has been consistent the political situation in Venezuela is one for the Venezuelans to resolve peacefully democratically and constitutionally, which I said on Friday. We explicitly told opposition leaders the United States would not support a coup," he said. The U.S. does not support Venezuelan coup.

Is there a Diner in the House?:**Searching for little piece of Americana, cheap prices, and a good burger.**By Maria Ochoa
Staff Reporter

I'm selfish and I admit it. When I find something I really like I want to keep it to myself, but there is a little part of me that is vainglorious and it undoubtedly is my selfish little undoing. Along with the "me, me, me" slips out my private little secrets, parts of L.A. underground and arcane bits of knowledge that leave me shy of M.E.N.S.A. (bilingual folks, you may snicker) and leave me in the realm of L.A. geek. But I can't help telling people about one of my favorite obsessions, diners. No, not the located on Sunset Strip, inspired by a movie, overpriced cheese fries swathed in nacho cheese; but the Route 66, Jimmy Dean, five-and-dine, pink thunderbird, vanilla coke fountain, American Bandstand, doo-wop, mom-and-pop diners. Sure you can head into a Johnny Rocket's or a Ruby's but it's just not the same. It's like Sunny Delight versus good ole' Florida fresh squeezed, an original versus a chemical imitation. This is exactly why I love *Rae's Diner*. *Rae's* is not merely a throwback to an often overly idealized era, but a testimony to good old fashioned Leave-It-to-Beaver food fare. Choices include yummy, thick pancakes with maple syrup, cheeseburgers, thick and creamy shakes, fresh fruit, cheddar covered cheese fries, and sides of cottage cheese. Located on 2901 Pico Blvd in Santa Monica about six blocks east of Santa Monica City College. The turquoise building, dating back who knows how long, is an L.A. gem dab smack in front of a *MacDonalds* in an ironic gesture of poetic justice. It stands as testimony that sometimes progress is taking time out to sit and hold a conversation over apple pie. Here the employees wear no uniform besides food stained aprons, service is relatively fast, and orange swivel chairs are still cool. The food is not fancy or artificial, it's good, fresh, and makes for cheap eats. Most meals are between \$3.50 and \$6.95 almost nothing over \$11.00. *Rae's* features steaks, burgers, soups, home-style dinners, and more. If this isn't up your alley, try another favorite, the *50's Dinner* located two blocks east of Barrington on Santa Monica Blvd. It boasts friendly service, monthly newsletters, great pies, and 35 different shakes. Best apple-pie shakes and cherry colas in town guaranteed. It's generally pricier than *Rae's* with shakes starting at \$3.50 and most meals between \$6.00 and \$10.00, but worth every penny. It has a beautifully wacky interior with old movie posters, magazine pictures, and playing cards on the ceiling and covering every inch of wall space. There's even an old black and white T.V. sitting in a corner playing nothing but "I Love Lucy" and "The Honeymooners." There's also a neat old bike hanging from the ceiling and there are often coloring contests. It also features special discounts on different days of the week there's Sundae Sunday's and Two for Tuesdays where you get two meals or burgers for the price of one. And once a month you come in pajamas to get _ off your meal! Some days, there is even an in-house. You can get counter service at both restaurants but only the 50's has a record machine.

The Snack Tax?

By Jenny Kane

Imagine this: a national tax of 1 cent per 12-oz container of soda would generate about \$1.5 billion annually. If the same tax of 1 cent per pound of candy, chips or other snack foods would provide more than \$300 million. All of this additional revenue would be utilized to fund national nutrition education programs and campaigns to help promote exercise and more health-conscious decisions. It seems that something must be done in order to combat the current national epidemic of childhood obesity and the growing number of diabetic individuals. According to an article in the American Journal of Public Health in June 2000 by Michael F. Jacobson, PhD and Kelly D. Brownell, PhD, "Poor diet and physical inactivity in the United States are estimated to cause about 310,000 to 58,000 deaths annually due to cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes." As opposed to campaigns and programs advocating awareness of health concerns instituted by the National Cancer Institute, which spends about \$1 million annually, the conglomerate of beverage companies shell out more than \$3.5 billion annually.

And so it seems that our values are misplaced. In a capitalistic society, profits are to be valued above human health. This seems to be suggested by the advertising campaigns of such companies, whose products contribute little to the nutritional needs of a growing population. If a small tax would help improve these odds, I am an avid supporter.

Boba-licious!

By Stephanie Sampson

The latté and chai are so last year. For those who subscribe to the axiom "friends don't let friends go to Starbucks," start sucking. On your boba, that is.

Popping up all over L.A. are Boba bars, direct from Taiwan, which have quickly become a welcomed alternative to frozen, blended juice with a gritty scoop of your RDA served in a styrofoam cup (thank you, Jamba...next?).

Boba, meaning "bubble," is a tea drink with optional fruity flavors such as honeydew, papaya, watermelon, kumquat, pineapple/coconut, lychee, almond and others. It consists of black or green tea, milk and an optional flavored fruit syrup or chopped fresh fruit in your desired flavor. Hidden at the bottom like sunken treasure are the bobas...dark pearls of tapioca about the size of a marble (about 1 cm in diameter) which absorb the flavor of the drink and are sucked up through fat straws. Having a subtle, sweet gummy bear-like consistency, the boba are delicious sipped through iced, fruited, or hot tea.

Welcome in spring with a refreshing substitute for soda or coffee. Order a boba in your favorite pastel color, or plain. Those gummy sweet tapioca balls will have you boba-ing over for more!

Where to get it:

Nearest location to Chalon:

Boba World, 1116 Westwood Blvd.

To Doheny campus:

Boba Delight, 700 S. Western Ave., #102

Economics and the Environment

By Jenny Kane
Staff Reporter

Should the United States drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)? Is it merely a question of economics, or does the future of the environment deserve more consideration. These questions have been at the forefront of President Bush's plan to expand America's domestic oil production and energy supplies, thus decreasing dependency on foreign imports. For Bush, drilling in Alaska is both an economic and a political strategy. Here is a brief breakdown of the proposal and some of the suggested results.

Unbeknownst to many opponents of such drilling in Alaska, the proposal only concerns about 8% of the 19 million acre ANWR, in particular the Coastal Plain. This area is analogous in size to Delaware, but, in contrast to the picturesque idyllic portraits of a postcard Alaska, the Coastal Plain is basically featureless, without trees, barren and endowed only with occasional ponds.

Leave no footprints – this is the proposed plan for drilling,

only during the winter, when no caribou herds are present. The caribou have been at the top of the list of concerns which environmentalists have been addressing in response to impact reports on wildlife migratory patterns. During the spring, the fragile caribou population uses the Coastal Plain as its calving grounds. Previous reports suggested that drilling would not significantly impact the caribou in the region. However, a recent Los Angeles Times article reports that more recent analysis provides evidence to the contrary.

Apparently, this has been another roadblock in President Bush's plans to start drilling in the Coastal Plain area, a hindrance he stresses the United States simply cannot afford right now. On Monday, April 8, 2002 Bush announced that Saddam Hussein has announced that he will suspend oil exports for 30 days.

Currently the US imports over 56% of its needed petroleum, with a cost of over \$55.2 billion a year. According to estimates, Americans use about 19 million barrels of oil each day.

Iraq and Saddam Hussein control about 2.5 million barrels a day. These figures demonstrate the undeniable dependency the United States has on foreign production of oil in order to sufficiently maintain our level of consumption.

So maybe President Bush is simply looking out for the welfare of all Americans. In addition to decreasing the need for foreign oil, boosting domestic oil production would eventually save Americans the money they would otherwise be forced to spend when the oil-producing countries of OPEC decided to hike up the prices of barrels of oil yet again. The 20 billion barrels of oil supposedly locked underneath the Coastal Plain tundra area of the ANWR would provide the United States with about \$500 billion in revenues each year and thus cut imports.

Of course, however, this is all hypothetical. The estimates of the amount of oil hiding in the Coastal Plain have varied from 9 billion all the way to 20 billion. The actual amount of oil would contribute greatly in weighing the benefits with the consequences of such a deci-

sion, a decision which is still being debated in the Senate. The House legislation passed last summer and opens the Coastal Plain for drilling; however, the Senate Democrats appear strongly opposed, and the Republicans do not seem to be making any steps forward in finally passing the legislation.

And this failure to agree on the issue in Congress may actually mirror the greater population's feelings about ANWR drilling. True, in looking at the facts and the economic figures, drilling in ANWR may appear to be the solution, but does it not seem to be merely a quick fix to an energy problem that has been around ever since the dawn of the automobile? Maybe our "energy" should be spent looking for better ways to replace our dependency on oil, imported or domestically produced. Alternate energy sources may be the answer, whatever they may be. Maybe we can solve the economic problem without sacrificing the beauty of our environment. Here lies the genius – environment friendly economics.

Gossip Column Ms. M. Belle Isher

Fresh off her Oscar win, Halle Berry is now filming a new James Bond film in Spain. But, things aren't coming up roses for this beauty. She was recently hurt while on film when a planned explosion sent debris flying. A piece of debris hurt her eye and she was rushed to the hospital to have her eye examined. Though the injury is not permanent, she remains with a tender eye.

Rapper Eminem has finally settled a lawsuit with his ex-wife's new boyfriend, Ray Guerra. Allegedly, Eminem pulled a gun on this man and hit him with it. This act cost the controversial rapper \$100,000 dollars and two years probation which should be like déjà vu considering he is currently on probation for pulling the same gun on members of the band Insane Clown Posse.

Dude, they really did kill Kenny for good. The comedy team behind South Park, Matt Stone and Trey Parker, have decided to not bring back the character of Kenny McCormick. Instead, Kenny's spot is tentatively replaced by Butters. Despite some fans voicing their dislike of Kenny's demise, Stone says, "I couldn't care less. I am so sick of that character." They got tired of trying to find new ways of offing Kenny, so they just decided to finally kill him off with a terminal muscular disease.

Nona Gaye, Marvin Gaye's daughter, will resume the role of the late Aaliyah in *The Matrix : Reloaded*.

Benjamin Bratt has just married his co-star from *Pinero* and girlfriend of 5 months, Talisa Soto, on April 13, 2002.

Book Review:

Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me: And Other Trials from my Queer Life.

By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

While perusing my friend Maria's bookshelves, I came across an interesting title, *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me*. I laughingly asked her, "What is this book about?" She pulled it off her shelf and turned it to a chapter called, "The Non-Writing Life" and said I had to read this. With the opening line of the chapter reading "Writers who claim they've wanted to write since the age of six and would die if they couldn't write are pathological liars" I knew this book was destined to be a great read. Throughout the entire book, Michael Thomas Ford writes about contemporary gay life in America with humor, brutal honesty, and even warmth. The content of this book is rather explicit but Mr. Ford never loses his humor so it's actually easy to get through. He explores themes from dating in "The Perils of Dating", to shopping in "Why I hate shopping." He touches upon gay stereotypes in "The Sound of Music" and writes, "You see, I dare to stand in defiance of one of the most cherished of gay male traditions: I do not like musical shows." Overall, it's a work of poignancy from a gay young man who can find humor in anything. The reading is very easy and he has a quick, humor that is for everyone. This book is definitely worth looking into.

Women Battered, Psych Class Fights Back

By Maria Ochoa
Staff Writer

Did you know that:
30 to 50% of teens experience teen dating violence.

40% of babies born prematurely in ICU are caused by physical abuse.

Nearly 2 out of 3 female victims of violence know their attackers; 31% are attacked by a stranger, 28% are attacked by boyfriends or husbands, 35% are attacked by friends or acquaintances, and 5% by other relatives. Every 6 seconds a woman is battered, in the time it took you to read this women 3 have been battered.

These were just some of the startling statistics presented on April 3rd in the Campus Center by the "Violence Against Women Class," Psychology 186 and culled from the Department of Justice Bureau's Justice Statistics compiled in "Violence Against Women: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report," in 1994 by Ronet Bachman. The Psych 186 class, like almost all classes, must present a final assignment or project. Unlike other many classes they were given the freedom to do a project of their choice; a research paper, power point presentations, or anything of the like.

They chose to host a free informational session on domestic violence and getting help. It included statistics, information on family counseling services, violence resources, and more. But despite all the statistics and good advice they knew that there is no telling if the audience can grasp what they can't make tangible. Enter Sandra Garibay, a Mount student and Urban Intern. She seems exceptionally meek, slightly shy, quiet, the word that best seemed to fit her was uttered by a classmate who called

her first impression of Sandra "fragile." The thing you couldn't tell by looking at this young woman who looks as if a butterfly would make her cry is that she survived and is now speaking out against her own personal hell of five and a half years of domestic violence.

She says she came from a small town of less than 12,000 people. She met a boy and became his girlfriend as a fluke, a way of making another girl jealous as a favor for a friend. But the little joke went terribly wrong. "It all started with rules," Sandra says it sounded "reasonable." Her boyfriend asked her to stop wearing skirts or shorts and not to talk to other men because it would draw the "wrong kind of attention" they may believe she is flirting or available. He would suddenly tell her she was fat or ugly and that no one would put up with her. She took it for fact and not for what it really was; a way to demean and control her, to make her feel inadequate, and a way to test if she was weak, if she would accept her own abasement or be if she would be able to see through his game and leave him. It has nothing to do with intelligence, abusers prey on emotions, weaknesses, and control. Sandra tells how for the last two years of her relationship he never called her by her name, instead he used derogatory epithets. The physical abuse began with simple pushing and shoving and escalated to corporeal violence in public.

She recalled an incident where she didn't order fast enough at McDonald's and he pinched her so hard her skin rubbed off. She attributed her bruises to soccer practice and made excuses for him to others and to herself. Sandra recalls how he never hit her face, probably for fear others would know, and how he forced her to pay him as punis

ment for disobeying him. The list goes on and on to blackmail, threats to her family, or his suicide. She never questioned her situation or think it was that bad until a class discussed partner violence and she thought, "it sounds like my relationship." The red flags went up and she knew something was terribly wrong. She describes the struggle to simply end the relationship and how the shadow still looms over her.

She worries every day that he will return to haunt her, as he has done in the past suddenly popping up or calling her. But Sandra knows it is important to live her life and take precautions to ensure she never falls into the same trap. That is why she agreed to tell her story, in an effort to let others know how easy it is to be taken advantage of and abused and the importance of valuing yourself and breaking free. She admits it is still a struggle to see herself in a positive light but at least she is working on it. Sophia Herrera of the Family Counseling Services, offers this advice when dealing with friends in abusive situations: "Don't be critical, blame, assume you know best or that they want out." "Do listen, tell them it's not ok to be hit." She went on to say that they should be encouraged to seek help for themselves and their partners.

Unfortunately, many people see domestic violence or possessiveness as jealousy or love; usually only 1 out of 25 seek help she says. Sophia went on to state that often "Love, hope for happier times again, past good times, denial...self blame, or a feeling they 'deserve it'" causes people to stay in bad situations. Sylvia Vega a non-profit violence caseworker, admits it isn't easy to get help or protection from police sometimes because it is the #1 situation

where police officers die in the line of fire. She gave a few strategies for getting help. Sylvia says, "Fight harder," tell the police "there's a stranger in your house or outside because you'll get a faster response." Always make a paper trail, file reports and get copies of them, file for an emergency restraining order, even if you don't get one at first it will improve your chances of getting one. "Get an advocate...it takes time to do these things, [you] may falter, but go back [and try again]." Above all she says, "GO TO COURT! His actions are his problems, make him face them." She also suggests no pity for abusers or minimization, in other words don't worry if it's on his record, or think, "it's not that bad." And also she noted that even if you live together get him off the lease, change the locks, get sole custody of children, and always write down dates and times of incidents. All in all the speakers and class had one clear point, educate yourself, arm yourself, stand up and it will give you a fighting chance.

If you or anyone you know may need help Psych 186 suggests calling:

24 hour crisis lines at (213) 626-3393 or (310) 392-8381
Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-7233
RAINN (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network) (800) 656-HOPE
Mount St. Mary's College Counseling and Psychological Services (310) 954-4114

Multicultural Night

By Lorena Santos
Features Editor

The theme of this year's Multicultural Night at the Mount was a patriotic one. Red, white and blue balloons adorned the Little Theatre while the performers on stage displayed many cultural dances. Sarah Fontang's beautiful folklorica dance received great applause and cheers from the audience. Members of Kappa Delta Chi danced a routine while dressed as tootsie rolls, lollipops, hershey's kisses and hot tamales. Their music ranged from "Simply Irresistible" to "I Want Candy." The Hawaiian club, dressed in sarongs and leis danced a dance as beautiful and peaceful as the sandy beaches of said island. Other high-energy dance acts included members from Theta Alpha Sigma, a group called the Back-Ups, and Latinas Unidas who performed a conglomeration of tango, banda, cumbia, etc. Braves soloists were Juliet Choi and Larisa Steward. The diversity of Mount St. Mary's College student body was evident this night. This very diversity is a depiction of our great nation and was an example that these differences can be celebrated harmoniously side-by-side.

Athenian Café

By Laarni Paras
Layout Editor

A foggy Sunday night makes the lecture-hall-turned-café a comfy place. Round tables replaced stationary cycles. Instead of sports bottles, hot cider, hot chocolate and cappuccinos, wafers, cookies and quickly vanishing Krispy Kremes filled the hall. Then there is karaoke.

There were the usual group performances of Grease ditties and other familiar tunes. And a couple of gals braved the lecture hall's steps individually and in small pairs to prove that karaoke isn't just for those hearing-impaired and inebriated. Too bad there weren't more outrageous instances of the usually quiet girls shedding their meek demeanor to belt out rock 'n roll.

All in all, the event provided a relaxed atmosphere for the last tension-filled month of the school year. It was a good place to go for food, drinks and music while in your sweats.

Spectrum-Rainbow of Cultures Association

Yared Salgado
Entertainment Editor

As you may have recalled the weekly "Chalon News" issue, mentioned that on February 11, 2002, Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud and the Student Activities and Commuter Services department recognized the new Spectrum-Rainbow of Cultures Association (R.O.C.A) Club. Sandra Gramajo, a senior at the Chalon campus, initiated this club and is working hard to make this club a success.

Sandra explains, "this school is full of organizations and clubs that represent our cultures. And, many students want to participate in many clubs but do not have time to run from meeting to meeting. This club is meant for all these students who want to learn more on different and diverse cultures". She mentions that the purpose for Spectrum- R.O.C.A is to encourage the preservation and dissemination of information about different cultures that make up the Mount St. Mary's community on both the Chalon and Doheny campus.

Everyone who wishes to be a member of this club is welcomed. Spectrum-R.O.C.A will initiate this fall. However, the first event sponsored by Spectrum in association with the Sociology department, will be a speaker panel entitled, "Careers in the Entertainment Industry". This event will be held on Tuesday, April 30th at 3:45 in the Drudis Biada Art Gallery in the Chalon Campus. The guest speakers attending will be representatives from VH1, MTV, and Amy B. Management (Management team for Grammy Award winner: Ozomatli).

For more information Spectrum-R.O.C.A. encourages students to please check the 4th Floor Club board foyer in the Chalon Campus. Doheny students are also encouraged and welcome to stop by their club board for further information.

Residence Life announces Resident Assistants for 2002-2003

Every year the Residence Life Office at the Mount begins the long task of searching for Resident assistants for the upcoming academic year. The candidates go through individual interviews and a group process. This year proved to be a challenging year based on the excellence of all the candidates. However, the RLO could only choose some to represent the residence halls in the Mount. Congratulations to the 2002-2003 staff.

Chalon Campus

Head RA's- Sulmy Garcia
Geovanna Henao

RA's- Veronica Bautista
Janice De la Cruz
Cristen Ferguson
Edith Garcia
Jenny Kane
Sofia Juarez
Joan Kang
Liliana Rosas
Cassandra Sandoval
Marliese Segismundo
Summer Shinagawa
Donita Valdez

Doheny Campus

Kaia Gillins-Green
Jessica Langford

Dalia Aguilar
Gloria Alvarez
Jessica Jonte
Adriana Rendon
Fallon Perdue
Renee Phipps
Karina Ruelas
Erika Solis

University of Judaism

Christine Cadore
Celeste Hurd

Good Luck to all of you!

On to Bigger and Better Things

By Mitzie Vitela
Freelance Writer

The time has come Class of 2002. After graduation we will face "the real world." I believe that every senior right about now feels horror (where will we find a job?!) and utter happiness (no more school, papers, exams!). As graduation quickly approaches, we find ourselves thinking over what awaits outside the MSMC campus. We have been preparing long enough on the survival in the adult world. Our lives will change completely once we cross that stage and receive that college diploma. Work, bills, commutes to work, and college loan payments. But with the anxiety that accompanies freedom there must be joy.

After graduation, we will be free. We will all have the chance to do with our lives what we have been working for all these years in college. Some will go in to teaching and will shape the generation of children to come. Some will become doctors and make the world a healthier and better place to live in. Others will go to graduate school and demonstrate that the will to learn will never vanish. We will go out in to the world to change it. The Class of 2002 will go into "the real world" with eyes

wide open and ready to take charge.

Our reward for the hard work will be repaid each day. The career we have trained to do will be done to the best of our abilities. We will make mistakes (we are human) but we will learn from those mistakes and become better and stronger people. The satisfaction you will get from whatever career you are in will remind you of those nights you stayed up studying for that midterm during your college years. The world is yours, and you know it is because you have worked hard enough to earn it. Do not let fear of the real world keep you from accomplishing what you dreamed about your freshman year in college. You are strong, intelligent and capable- and you know this because you are graduating from Mount Saint Mary's College.

Always remember that you earned that college degree. You did not buy it, steal it, or sneak around for it. You worked very hard for it. Tests, papers, group presentations, sleepless nights, no eating, commuting: all these things you did to get that degree. All your hard work has paid off. So when you cross that stage, get your degree and

shake the Presidents hand, remember: I earned it. And be proud because with that degree you have showed everyone around you that you are everything your dreams desired you to be.

You will look back after entering the real world and remember Mount Saint Mary's College. This is the place that gave you that step into being whom you are. You have learned much from here, you have made and lost friends here, and you have grown into an adult here. Enter the real world knowing that with hard work, knowledge and persistence anything can be accomplished. Knowing that, you will be able to move on to bigger and better things.

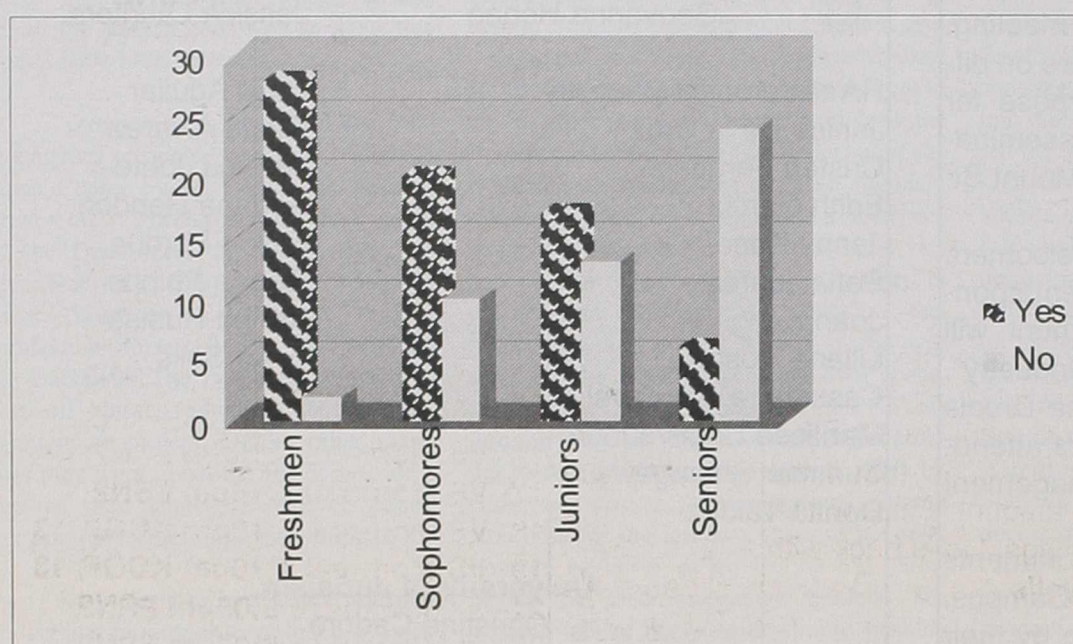
Poll: Policy Audit

Investigating the application of the school's mission statement.

The Mission Statement of Mount St. Mary's College is as follows:

"Mount St. Mary's College offers a dynamic learning experience in liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body. As a Catholic college primarily for women, we are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. Our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments and the world."

Do you think the mission statement of The Mount is adequately applied and abided by?



Mount Students Study Abroad

Mount Saint Mary's College prides itself with the students that study abroad. This upcoming fall semester, Mount students will be all throughout Europe. We congratulate these women for their accomplishment, and wish them the best in their journey. We hope that they keep us updated. Good luck and continue to make us proud!

Thank you Oracle Staff!

This year's Oracle staff was incredible, determined and responsible. They all took pride in the Oracle. Their efforts allowed for this year to be a success. We hope that this hard work continues to flourish. On behalf of the Oracle staff, I would also like to thank the Oracle advisor, Elena Barnes. Her support and encouragement is greatly appreciated. Congratulations and thanks to Stephanie Sampson, Yared Salgado, Lorena Santos, Laarni Paras, Jenny Kane, Jessica Martinez, and Maria Ochoa.

Investing In The Stock Market...

Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

Face it, you're probably not going to get rich enough to retire early just by working at your 9-5 job once you graduate. The average workplace salaries of today are not designed to build wealth, they are designed to sustain the lifestyle and daily operating needs of the social tier which they support. Unless you live on a deserted island with a very low cost of living, it's not likely that you'll be able to build wealth sufficient to retire early on \$65,000 a year, or even \$100,000. And even if you could, last time I checked there were no haute couture boutiques, Rolls Royce dealerships, or gated custom home communities on deserted islands so what would you be able to do with all that wealth anyway? You're in luck; there are other options. For starters, you could begin investing in the stock market.

For many, the stock market is viewed as an elitist club where only the rich get to play, facilitated by a complex web of suit-clad investment bankers, briefcases in hand, tromping

off to the trading floor on Wall Street. Forget this image. Investing is a tangible, reasonable, doable activity and you don't have to be already rich to participate.

First, build a personal reserve of money to invest. How much you will ultimately need to start investing for the first time usually depends on the brokerage house where you want to open an account. A general rule of thumb is that the average minimum opening deposit is between \$500-\$1,000 so aim for somewhere within this threshold. The easiest way to obtain this level is to segregate money aside from each paycheck, even if it's \$20 a week. (After a year, your \$20 set aside each week will have grown to nearly \$1,000!) While stockpiling your investment reserve, do some research on various stocks, bonds and mutual funds that you'd like to track. Which companies attract you? Do you prefer the leadership of some over others? Does a start-up company you heard about recently have a concept you think will really thrive? Take note of the names that are in the news and

which companies or industry sectors are making headlines. Which companies or industries do you see warning signs to avoid? Make mental notes of the stock performance of the companies you choose to track, as well as any associated news headlines and circumstances in the industry sector. Starting to become generally aware of the goings-on in the business sector of the news will make you a smarter investor.

Now you're ready to join the race. You'll need to take the prized investment reserve money you've been saving and fill out an application to open an account with a brokerage firm. Once your account is approved and you're given your trading user name and password, you may approach the starting line.

Investors today find that the easiest way to invest is online. Some leading firms are Charles Schwab, Datek, and E*Trade Securities. Datek, for example, requires a minimum \$500 deposit to open an account. Online trades cost a \$9.99 commission, and phone trades are \$25.00 to speak with a broker. This is pretty typical pricing

for online trading.

The general interface for conducting online trades is straight forward and easy-to-use. Some brokerage houses have proprietary software that must be loaded onto your computer to conduct online trades, but most are internet-based requiring just a web browser with 128-bit encryption capabilities. To place an order you will need the stock ticker symbol and in some cases, an additional password. Just as if you've ever paid your credit card bill online or conducted an online transaction with your bank, you will receive a confirmation number for each transaction. Account updates are made electronically once an order has been filled and you can often see the results having affected your account immediately.

Now that you're a stockholder who's been saddled with the how-to's of Investing 101, arm yourself with these four words of simple advice which have been passed on by investors for generations: "buy low, sell high!"

He is Back with a Bang!

By Geovanna Henao
Editor in Chief

Chick Hearn received a standing ovation upon his return as the Lakers sportscaster on Tuesday, April 9, 2002. Many felt the emptiness that came during his absence, however, this emptiness quickly filled with eagerness and happiness. Many love him. All his years of experience make him a great announcer.

Despite his age and health, he continues eagerly to cover the Lakers games. His enjoyment and expertise with the Lakers is incredible.

He has been the only sportscaster for the Lakers since 1961. He has seen it all. He has seen the greatest accomplishments, the worst seasons, and the championships. Before his leave, he had not missed a game since 1965. His record of about 3000 games was halted due to heart surgery last December. Since, he has missed games for other health reasons.



It was not the same without him. Chick brings inside and laughter into the Lakers games. His classic sayings, "The Jello is jiggling, and the eggs are in the refrigerator," provide a bang to end of games. Over all the years as an announcer, he has coined many sayings that continue to make listeners smile. We know that if the Lakers are winning by an extensive amount, Chick will let us know with one of his classic sayings. He is back with a bang, and just in time for the playoffs.

New Talent for the Dodgers

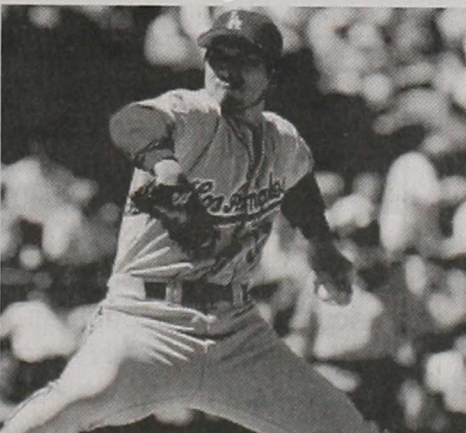
By Karmin Mendoza
Free Lance Writer

As it turns out, the newest edition to the Dodger club has been heaven sent, from Japan. Kazuhisa Ishii, a native of Chiba, Japan, recently joined Dodger baseball this season and has already impacted the club by bringing the team three victories, two against the Colorado Rockies.

Kazuhisa Ishii signed a four-year free agent contract with two club options for 2006 and 2007 on February 8, 2002. He and his wife Ayako Kisa have one child, Kanta. His wife is a television news anchor for the evening news on Fuji TV and once served as host of the sports program "Pro Baseball News."

Before signing with the Dodgers, Kazuhisa Ishii was among the top 10 in Japan's Japanese League. He was 12-6 with a 3.39 ERA and 162 strikeouts in 175.00 innings. During his time in Japan, he led his team, the Swallows, to their first victory in the Japanese Series Championship in four years defeating the Osaka Kintetsu Buffaloes in the final. In Game 1 of the Japanese Series, Ishii pitched 8.0 shutout innings and carried a no-hitter into the seventh, giving up one hit and striking out 12. Those 12 strikeouts tied a Japan Series record, making this the second time he reached this mark in his career, having already done so in 1997.

All Dodger fans look forward to seeing what great numbers Ishii will bring to the club this season.



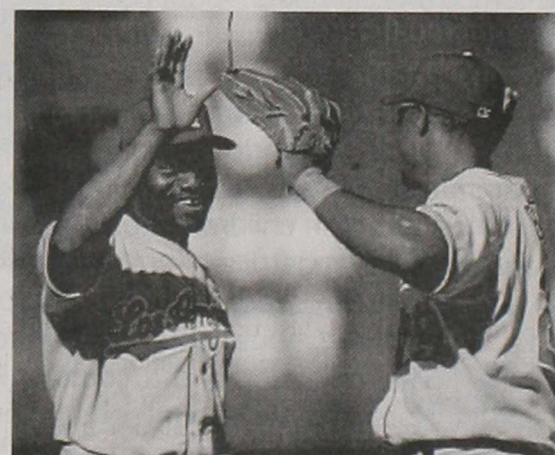
Dodgers Schedule

April

26- @ Chicago 12:20pm FSN2
27- @ Chicago 11:20am KCOP-13
28- @ Chicago 11:20am KCOP-13
30- VS Cincinnati 7:10pm FSN2

May

1- VS Cincinnati 7:10pm FSN2
2- VS Cincinnati 7:10pm FSN2
3- VS Chicago 7:10pm FSN2
4- VS Chicago 7:10pm KCOP, 13
5- VS Chicago 5:10pm
7- @ Atlanta 4:35pm FSN2
8- @ Atlanta 4:05pm FSN2
9- @ Atlanta 4:35pm FSN2
10- @ Florida 4:05pm FSN2
11- @ Florida 4:05pm FSN2
12- @ Florida 10:05am FSN2
13- VS New York 7:10pm FSN2
14- VS New York 7:10pm FSN2
15- VS New York 7:10pm FSN2
16- VS Montreal 7:10pm FSN2
17- VS Montreal 7:10pm FSN2
18- VS Montreal 7:10pm KCOP, 13
19- VS Montreal 1:10pm KCOP, 13
21- @ Milwaukee 5:05pm FSN2
22- @ Milwaukee 5:05pm FSN2
23- @ Milwaukee 10:05am
24- @ Arizona 7:05pm FSN2
25- @ Arizona 7:05pm KCOP, 13
26- @ Arizona 1:35pm KCOP, 13
27- VS Milwaukee 1:10pm KCOP, 13
28- VS Milwaukee 7:10pm FSN2
29- VS Milwaukee 12:10pm FSN2
31- VS Arizona 7:10pm FSN2



To order tickets, call 323-224-1-HIT or go to the Dodger website at www.dodgers.com

By Yared Salgado

Colombia in need for Military Aid

During these past two months the Colombia government has been calling for aid to fight the guerrillas. Providing military aid to Colombia can be challenging for President George Bush. In order to remove restrictions that limit aid to the anti-narcotics fight, Bush needs to get the approval from the congressional board. Congress until now has resisted any attempts to erase these restrictions. "The Tidings", a Southern California weekly Catholic Newspaper, mentioned, "human rights and religious groups have been critical of beefed-up military aid, saying it will significantly increase human rights abuses and up to the number of civilians killed or displaced by the fighting." Bush hopes to defy these objections by emphasizing the links between the guerrillas and drug lords. Bush believes that these ties are to be wrapped up as part of the worldwide struggle against terrorism. In comparison he also mentions that the U.S. government expects Colombia to use military aid to fight paramilitary groups and to call upon the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia. On the other hand, there are those critics who in turn link to Colombia's illegal paramilitary forces, tagged by the U. S government as terrorists and human rights violators, to the military. They also add that by aiding the military means helping the paramilitary groups commit the same violations as the guerrillas.

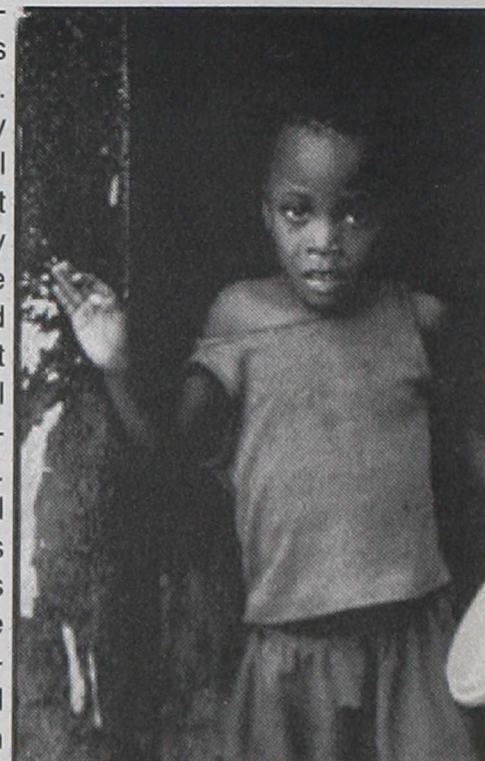
NORTH KOREA'S AID DISASTER

The United Nations mentions that the North Koreans are in need of more than 350,000 tons of food to make sure that they have enough food to get through the summer and avoid a major hunger crisis. Until now there has been some progress in easing the long-running famine or in other and fewer cases malnutrition in North Korea. Asia Director John Powell mentioned that without any further contributions of pledges North Korea will run out of food in July or August. "Pledges today don't translate into food tomorrow....it takes about 3 to 4 months to translate a pledge from a donor country into food in the stomach of a child in Korea," he added. The World Food Programme estimates that around 40% of North Korean children under the age of 5 will most likely suffer from a disease due to lack of food and in other cases malnutrition. How should other nations fend off this disaster? The WFP demand a communication with the North Korean government at higher levels to ensure that food will be going to the appropriate places. CNN.com states that there is a positive note to all of this, "the WFP says there are no indications that the recent tension between Washington and Pyongyang has jeopardized food aid". The United States is the single largest source of food that the World Food Programme distributes to North Korea.



Rusting Shacks in Haiti

Like many third world countries, Haiti is a neighbor who is in desperate need of help. The United Nations declares that Haiti is the world's third hungriest nation. They suffer from lack of food, clean water, lack of education, job opportunities and poor health care. Haiti has a population of 7.8 million and has a life expectancy of 53 years. There is one doctor for every 10,000 Haitians. Medical and dental care are almost nonexistent. The literacy rate is 20%, 2.4 million people live in poor slums/shacks and there is an unemployment rate of 70%. Haitians annual income is \$300. Rural residents suffer much worse. They receive an annual income of \$150. Haiti has suffered a tremendous amount of hardships; the unjust rule of European powers, harsh dictatorship, and brutal military juntas. But in 1990, for the first time in history, Haiti experienced fair democratic elections. Unfortunately it did not last long. Haiti's ray of hope was shattered. In 1990 President Jean Bertrand Aristide was in term for several months but was forced to leave the country by members of the military. After this overthrow, 6,000 people were murdered, tortured and raped. All this came to an end when the United States and the International community pressured Aristide's return in 1994 to finish his remaining months to finish his term. Aristide was reelected in 2000. Until today many religious and political leaders are sanctions have not taken an official position on this crisis. Many are trying to urge President Bush to urge life economic sanctions against Haiti. "The real crime sometimes is knowing that there are people in need and there is no one to help them".



HONG-KONG, CHINA

Did you know that China is in the top list of world executioners? In the year 2001 China's figure of executions has increased about twice the previous years. There was a release in statistics showing that over 3,048 people were executed in 31 countries, with China topping the list. CNN reports "between April and July 2001 at least 1,781 people were executed in China-more than the total number of people executed in the rest of the world in the previous three years". Overall China has a history of "Strike Hard" campaigns, which is a campaign against crime. These campaigns have held three crackdowns one of which was held in 1983. A China researcher mentioned to CNN that in

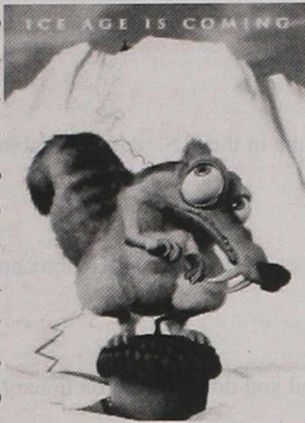
the last campaign, which was held in 1996, 4, 469 people were executed while 6,235 received death sentences.

Since 1990 china has executed some 20,000 people. The torture is unbearable and there is no sure number of how many people are victims a day. According to China media reporters, "prisoners are sentenced in front of crowds reportedly as large as two million people, before being paraded through the streets to firing squads". The most common form of execution in China is a shot to the back of the head. CNN reports that "earlier this year the government announced that it was looking to expand use of lethal injection as a more "humane" method.

Fox's Ice Age: frozen treat?

By Maria Ochoa

The movie starts off in the middle of a great prehistoric migration as creatures large and small seek warmth on the eve of an "ice age." We meet Manny, an anti-social Woolly Mammoth, voiced by Ray Romano, and Sid, voiced by John Leguizamo, a sloth who's as sharp as a marble. When Sid, who is ditched by his herd, is saved from a pack of predators he adopts Manny as an unlikely but necessary traveling companion. The duo finds a human baby and decides to return it to its "herd." We discover why Manny seems suicidal, heading into the ice age instead of away from it, while Sid provides comedic relief. Following in the footsteps of "Monsters Inc." there is an unlikely foe, plot twists, a silly sidekick, a big furry guy, and a cute kid that merely babbles as well as an attempt at warm-fuzzy sentiments. The movie carries quite a few chuckles but the jokes aren't enough to enthrall adults



the way "Shrek" does. After 15 minutes most adults will squirm in their seats. However it is just enough to captivate the imagination and attention of younger children although your average 12 year-old won't be as thrilled. "Ice Age" offers great computerized animation and although it borrows from other animated predecessors, manages to create its own look and feel. It's not exactly up to Pixar entertainment standards but thank goodness it's nowhere near the fracas of "Snow Day." Bottom line, if you want something to kill time or keep the kids settled down, this'll do, but you may find yourself fidgeting in your seat.



Blade II

By Lorena Santos

The first question that people seem to ask about this movie, or any other sequel, is whether it's as good as the first or not. So, I went to see Blade II in hopes that it would be just as good. Actually, I assumed it would be. I was a little surprised by some parts of this movie. The first fifteen minutes of this film show some of the more intense violent scenes. Let's just say they're more up close and personal than the ones in the first movie. The graphics and special effects of this film are better and some of the fight sequences are greatly enhanced. The story line throughout the movie is good. Blade must stop a new breed of vampires who feed off of humans as well as vampires. In this sequel, Blade must align with a highly-trained group of vampires originally trained to kill him. Action and suspense are definitely Blade II's strongest points as he and his fellow vampires go about destroying the mutated vampires. The one thing that some people may not like is the amount of gore. Some violent scenes are overdone. Also, Wesley Snipes as the character of Blade, seems to have fewer lines in this one. No matter, die-hard Blade fans will enjoy this film along with action movie fans. Definitely not for the faint of heart. All in all, this movie gets three- 1/2 stars out of five.



The Sweetest Thing

By Laarni Paras

The Sweetest Thing gravitates around the lives of Christina Walters (Cameron Diaz) and her two friends Courtney (Christina Applegate) and Jane (Selma Blair). Diaz's character is fond of dating but not settling down with one man, but she tires of the "game" when she bumps into Peter (Thomas Jane).

Diaz is charming as always. Applegate plays comedy better and more intelligently than her airhead character from Married With Children. And Blair absorbs her character - as she always does - as the quieter-but-more-sexually-inclined of the three pals.

The acting isn't the problem of the film. Unlike Diaz's other movies, My Best Friend's Wedding and There's Something About Mary, the script and direction fall flat. Although the movie is funny (like the club scene with the two guys with the hilarious moves), there was something missing in the film: there really isn't enough heart in this film to be called a romantic comedy. Watch it if you want to see Tom Green's and the Farrelly Brothers' female counterparts.

Summer Flicks

By Lorena Santos

Spider-Mmm



Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, and Willem Dafoe.

Release Date: May 3, 2002

Based on the legendary flagship character of Marvel comics, this is the story of Peter Parker, a high school student living with his Aunt May and Uncle Ben after the death of his parents when he was just a baby. He's an avid student with a much-less-than-stellar social life and a knack for bad luck. While attending a scientific demonstration, a freak accident bombards a stray spider with radiation, and that same spider finds its way onto the unsuspecting Peter's body and bites him, miraculously granting him incredible spider-like abilities; in effect, making him into the amazing Spider-Man.

Peter will find that there's a thin line between an ordinary man and an extraordinary hero; and he'll have to be the one to cross it.

Star Wars: Episode II- Attack of the Clones

Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen.

Release Date: May 16, 2002

Ten years after the events of *The Phantom Menace*, not only has the galaxy undergone significant change, but so have our familiar heroes Obi-Wan Kenobi (McGregor), Padmé Amidala (Portman) and Anakin Skywalker (Christensen) as



they are thrown together again for the first time since the Trade Federation invasion of Naboo. Anakin has grown into the accomplished Jedi apprentice of Obi-Wan, who himself has transitioned from student to teacher.

The two Jedi are assigned to protect Padmé whose life is threatened by a faction of political separatists. As relationships form and powerful forces collide, these heroes face choices that will impact not only their own fates, but the destiny of the Republic.

Enough



Jennifer Lopez, Billy Campbell, and Juliette Lewis

Release Date: May 24, 2002

A woman thinks she's found the man of her dreams, but after the wedding he quickly becomes abusive. After she tries and fails to get away from him, she decides that her only option is murder.

Minority Report

Tom Cruise, Colin Farrell and Samantha Morton. Directed by Steven Spielberg.

Release Date: June 28, 2002

Based on the short story by Philip K. Dick, *Minority Report* is set in a 2054 Washington, D.C. judicial system in which killers are arrested and convicted before they commit murder using a psychic technology. Cruise is the head of this Precrime unit and is himself accused of the future murder of a man he hasn't even met.



Websites Worth Exploring

By: Stephanie Sampson
News Editor

1. Quiz Your Friends: <http://www.quizyourfriends.com>

Create custom-designed multiple choice quizzes and find out how well your friends really DO know you!

2. Randomness: <http://www.randomness.com/>

Fun site when you have time to kill. Hilarious! Contributed By: Maria Ochoa.

3. Mass Times: <http://masstimes.org/>

Yes, you can still make it to church when you're on vacation. This site lists mass times for Catholic churches in every state in the U.S. Also available by phone at (800) Mass-Times. "Serving more than 60 million Catholics who live and travel in the United States."

4. ReelTeen: <http://www.reelteen.com/>

"The skinny. The latest. The 411. All the news that's fit to dish on teen tv, movies and celebs!" (Sister sites: BeautyQ.com, Bored.com, Kiwibox.com, KiwiTown, MMUSA, and NSYNCSudio). Contributed by: Laarni Paras.

5. Dictionary.com: <http://www.dictionary.com>

Picture it: you're in the computer lab, it's 8pm, your paper is due in the morning, spell check underlined a word in red and you don't have a dictionary. Sign on to Dictionary.com! It's free, fast, and oh-so useful. The site is married to, of course, Thesaurus.com to help the world end plagiarism.

6. Live Daily: <http://www.livedaily.com>

Never miss another concert! This site boasts an in-depth artist and tour search. Type in your favorite band and see when they'll be gracing a stage near you! Site contains tour announcements, news and ticketing information. Contributed By: Laarni Paras.

7. Death Clock: <http://deathclock.com>

Calculate your estimated time of death (providing no horrific accidents arise). Contributed By: Lorena Santos.

8. Your Dictionary: <http://www.yourdictionary.com/languages.html>

Interactive language translation guide featuring over 260 languages! Click on your selected language, type in a word or phrase, and have it instantly translated. (Similar sites include: FreeTranslation.com, and babelfish.altavista.com).

9. This Day In Music: <http://www.thisdayinmusic.com>

Tells you the song that was number 1 the day you were born, what musicians share your birthday, and fun sections like music award archives, "Name That Tune!" and current No. 1 standings around the world.

10. WebShots: <http://webshots.com/>

Free photo wallpaper and screensavers to personalize your computer. Has a huge selection in a variety of categories. Also see cometcursor.com to personalize your mouse pointer for free from a cool assortment of images.

11. PinkMonkey: <http://pinkmonkey.com/index2.asp>

G-rated, teacher-recommended site which has the world's largest literature summaries available for free online. Includes chapter summaries, key character analysis, and overall summaries. Also has study guides, and free booknotes searchable by author or title.

12. eVite: <http://www.evite.com>

Event planning and organization simplified. The newest way to invite and organize parties, events, and group get-togethers. Try eViting your buds to a finals study-session!

13. BubbleWrap: <http://fathom.org/opalcat/bubblewrap.html>

Bubble wrap! Features real free virtual bubble wrap. Pop away! "The most fun you can have online." Contributed By: Maria Ochoa.

Things to Do in L.A.

Concerts:

Paul McCartney @ Staples Center, L.A. Saturday, May 4 @ 8:00 PM

New Releases (on video):

Mulholland Drive
Serendipity
Spy Games
Life as a House
Bandits

Theater:

Mozart's The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflote) @ The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, April 10, 12, & 14 @ 7:30 PM. Prices range from \$30 - \$165. Call 213-972-7211 or go to Ticketmaster.com for more information.

The Lion King @ Pantages Theatre. Now through June 2, prices range from \$10 - \$125. May purchase tickets at ticketmaster.com, for more information call 877-498-KING.

"Drawing Italy in the Age of the Grand Tour" @ The Getty Center. Now through the end of June, for more information visit www.getty.edu or call 310-440-7300.